

GOVERNMENT OF OUDE.

Further RETURN to an ORDER of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 10 July 1838;—for,

P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO THE

SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF OUDE.

(*Mr. Winthrop Praed.*)

India Board, }
31 July 1838. }



Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
1 August 1838.

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on 24 February, 2020

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P A P E R S

RELATIVE TO

THE SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF OUDE.

— No. 1. —

COPY of a LETTER from the Vice President in Council to the Honourable
the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

No. 1.

Honourable Sirs,

Fort William, 24 December 1832.

OUR last letter to your Honourable Committee on the affairs of Lucknow was dated the 2d July.

Having subsequently received a communication from the Right Honourable the Governor-general, requesting to have our sentiments on the question of the succession to the throne, in the event of his present majesty's demise, whose serious illness in the month of October last was reported to his lordship by the resident; we stated in reply, that the king of Oude, having distinctly declared that the two boys whom he had formerly put forward as his sons were not the issue of his loins, we were of opinion that in the event of his having no children, nor pregnant consort at the time of his death, the succession would belong to the nearest heir-at-law, according to the Mahomedan law of inheritance, who we supposed would be Nusseer-ood-Dowlah, the eldest surviving brother of the present king's late father; if, as was presumed, the children of an elder brother were in this instance excluded by the Mahomedan law, as they were when the present king of Delhi succeeded to his father, in preference to the sons of an elder brother. The two cases, we remarked, were not precisely the same, because the present king of Delhi was appointed heir and successor during the life of his father, and because the rival claimants were a son and a grandson; whereas, they would, in the case of Lucknow, be an uncle and a cousin; but we concluded that the principle which gives the succession to the brother, in preference to the son of the individual, who, had he been living, would have been the heir, must be equally applicable in both cases. Should there be any doubt on this point, it could be solved, we observed, by a reference to competent authorities, and we added that there was no European authority better qualified than his Lordship's secretary, Mr. Macnaghten, to lay this question of Mahomedan law before the Governor-general in its true light.

We stated to his Lordship that we accordingly were of opinion that, presuming Nusseer-ood-Dowlah to be the heir-at-law, the British resident might be instructed to sanction and promote his succession in the event of the king's demise, and might be further enjoined, in the event of any sudden emergency which would not admit of his receiving instructions, not to allow any other arrangement to take effect.

The correspondence on the above subject is submitted as numbers in the packet.* His majesty has, we believe, entirely recovered from the indisposition which led to the reference regarding a successor.

We have, &c.

(signed) C. T. Metcalfe.

W. Blunt.

P. S.—Since this letter was prepared, Mr. Secretary Macnaghten's reply to the chief secretary's letter of the 26th November has been received. A copy of it accompanies as a number in the packet.

List, No. 6.

* Viz. Resident at Lucknow, 10 October 1832; Secretary to the Governor-general, 1 November; to the Secretary to the Governor-general, 26 November. List of Packet, Nos. 3 to 5.

CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING THE SUCCESSION

—No. 2.—

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

No. 2.

(Secret Department.)—COPY of a LETTER from the Secretary to the Governor-general to *George Swinton, Esq.*, Chief Secretary to the Government, Fort William.

Sir,

Camp Delhi, 1 November 1832.

I AM directed to transmit to you, for the purpose of its being laid before the Honourable Vice President in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from the resident at Lucknow, dated the 10th ultimo, and to convey the Governor-general's request to be favoured with the opinion of his Honour in Council, as to the instructions which should be furnished to the resident at Lucknow, with reference to the event anticipated in his letter.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten*,
Secretary to the Governor-general.

—No. 3.—

No. 3.

COPY of a LETTER from the Resident at Lucknow to *G. Swinton, Esq.*, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort William.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 11 October 1832.

I HAVE herewith the honour to forward, for the information of the Honourable the Vice President in Council, a duplicate of my letter in the secret department, dated yesterday, to the address of Mr. Secretary Macnaghten.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Lowe*, Resident.

(Copy).

(Secret Department.)—*W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.* Secretary to the Governor-general, Simla.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 10 October 1832.

1. THE king of Oude is again suffering from illness; it is, I understand, of a trifling nature for the present, arising from over-indulgence in opium; but the circumstance has recalled to my mind the embarrassing situation in which I should find myself, in the event of his majesty's sudden death.

2. Your letter to my address in the secret department, dated the 16th of June last, finally settled the question as to the pretensions formerly brought forward in favour of Kyman Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht; but nothing was communicated for the guidance of the resident at this court, in case of the demise of the present king.

3. I venture, therefore, to suggest, that I should be furnished with instructions for my conduct in the event of the death of the present king, without issue, taking place, during my ministry as resident at Lucknow.

4. If the event in question were to occur without my being previously aware of the wishes of my own Government, I should be obliged, as it appears to me, to adopt immediately one of the undermentioned two procedures; viz. either to place on the throne at once Nusseer-ood-Dowlah*, the eldest surviving son of the late Vizier Saadut Ali Khan, or to place British guards over the treasuries of the Oude Government, and all valuable property that is tangible, in the king's palaces, and await the result of a reference to my own Government, leaving the kingdom of Oude without any acknowledged sovereign for the time.

5. But the latter plan would involve many subsequent embarrassments and difficulties. It would be next to impossible to guard everything (especially in the female apartments,) in the different palaces, in such a manner as to prevent embezzlement of jewels, and other valuable property, while the responsibility would, to all appearance, justly be attached to the resident; and the non-existence

* I beg to refer you to my letter in the secret department, dated the 13th of April last, 9th paragraph and on to the conclusion.—(signed) *J. Lowe*, Resident.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF OUDE.

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existence of any native head to this state, for even the short period of 12 or 14 days, might not only lead to real difficulties in regard to revenue, and judicial affairs in the country, but it would give an opening for an infinite variety of alleged transactions, which might involve the British Government in vexatious and unprofitable investigations that it would surely be better to avoid.

6. Supposing the Governor-general were at Calcutta at the time of the demise of the king, nearly a fortnight would necessarily elapse before I could receive any instructions; and I have already pointed out the risk of loss to this state, and embarrassment to the British Government, that might occur during that period, unless I were, without making any reference, to place the next heir on the throne, and that I should be very averse to do without some previous knowledge of the wishes of my own Government.

7. I may here observe, that our connexion with Oude is of so intimate a nature, that the resident here could not stand aloof, as he might, for instance, at Scindiah's court, and, taking no notice whatever of the transactions in the palace, await the arrival of orders from Calcutta. No new sovereign or regent at this place could possess sufficient authority to maintain order in the city or the palace unless his elevation were countenanced by the representative of the British Government.

8. Adverting, therefore, to all the above-mentioned considerations, I beg to be favoured with instructions for my conduct in the event supposed, and I may here mention that during the lifetime of Saadut Ali Khan, Lieutenant-colonel Baillie was provided with secret instructions in regard to the succession which enabled that officer to establish the lawful successor on the throne, without any interruption to the public tranquillity, or loss to the Oude government.

I have, &c.,
(signed) J. Lowe, Resident.

• ABSTRACT of a LETTER from the Resident at *Lucknow* to the Secretary to the Governor-general in the Secret Department, dated 10 October 1832.

REPORTS the indisposition of the king, and adverting to the embarrassing situation in which the resident at this court would be placed if the king were to die without issue, requests instructions.

Points out the inconvenient consequences which might result in the event of the king's death occurring while the resident is ignorant of the wishes of his own government, and mentions that during the lifetime of Saadut Ali Khan, Lieutenant-colonel Baillie was provided with secret instructions regarding the succession to the throne.

(signed) J. Lowe, Resident.

— No. 4. —

(Secret Department.)—COPY of a LETTER from the Secretary to the Vice President in Council to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general.

No. 4.

Sir,

Fort William, 26 November 1832.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 1st instant, conveying the request of the Right Honourable the Governor-general to receive a communication of the sentiments of the Honourable the Vice President in Council, on the subject of a letter from the resident at Lucknow, dated the 10th ultimo, soliciting instructions in regard to the succession of the throne of Oude in the event of the king's demise, and to state to you in reply, that his majesty having distinctly declared that the two boys, whom he had formerly put forward as his sons, are not the issue of his loins, and leaving no children nor pregnant consort at the time of his death, the Vice President in Council is of opinion that the succession would, of right, belong to the nearest heir-at-law, according to the Mahomedan law of inheritance, who it is supposed will be Nusseer-ood-Dowlah, the eldest surviving brother of the present king's late father, if, as is presumed, the children of an elder brother are, in this instance, excluded by the Mahomedan law, as they were when the present king of Delhi succeeded to his father in preference to the sons of an elder brother. The two cases are not precisely the same, because the present king of Delhi was appointed

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heir and successor during the life of his father, and because, in that instance, the rival claimants were a son and a grandson, whereas they would in this be an uncle and a cousin; but the Vice President in Council concludes that the principle which gives the succession to the brother, in preference to the son of the individual who, had he been living, would have been the heir, must be equally applicable to both cases. Should there be any doubt on this point, he observes, it can be solved by reference to competent authorities; and he desires me to add that there is no European authority better qualified than yourself to lay this question of Mahomedan law before the Governor-general in its true light.

The Vice President in Council accordingly is of opinion that, presuming Nusseer-ood-Dowlah to be the heir-at-law, the resident may be instructed to sanction and promote his succession in the event of the king's demise, and may be further enjoined, in the event of any sudden emergency which will not admit of his receiving instructions, not to allow any other arrangement to take effect.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. Swinton*, Secretary to Government.

— No. 5. —

No. 5. (Secret Department.)—COPY of a LETTER from the Secretary to the Governor-general to *George Swinton*, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort William.

Sir,

Camp at Datteeah, 15 December 1832.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 26th ult., communicating the opinion of the Vice President in Council, in regard to the succession of the throne of Oude.

The Vice President in Council having done me the honour of adverting to my acquaintance with the Mahomedan law of succession, I have been authorized by his lordship to state my opinion with reference to the question; and I therefore beg to declare, that the view taken by his Honour in Council appears to me perfectly correct, the sons of a paternal uncle being altogether excluded from the succession while any paternal uncle survives.

A copy of your letter will accordingly be forwarded to the resident of Lucknow, for his information and guidance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten*,
Secretary to the Governor-general.

— No. 5, (a). —

No. 5 (a.)

In reference to the opinion which is expressed in the preceding letter of 26th of November 1832 (No. 4) by the Vice President in Council, in regard to the competency of Mr. Macnaghten to give an opinion on the Mahomedan law, applicable to the question of succession to the throne of Oude, and to the opinion expressed by Mr. Macnaghten on that question, in his letter of the 15th December 1832 (No. 5), it may be expedient to subjoin the following extracts from a work which he published at Calcutta, in the year 1825, as illustrating the grounds of his opinion.

The work is entitled "Principles and Precedents of Moohummudan Law; being a compilation of Primary Rules relative to the Doctrine of Inheritance (including the tenets of the Schia Sectaries), Contracts, and Miscellaneous Subjects; and a selection of Legal Opinions, involving those points delivered in the several Courts of Judicature subordinate to the Presidency of Fort William; together with Notes illustrative and explanatory, and Preliminary Remarks. By W. H. Macnaghten, Esq., of the Bengal Civil Service."

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF OUDE.

EXTRACT from "Principles and Precedents of Moohummudan Law, by W. H. Macnaghten, Esq., of the Bengal Civil Service; 1825."

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Extract Preliminary Remarks, pp. 8, 9, 12.

The only rule which bears on the face of it any appearance of hardship is that by which the right of representation is taken away, and which declares that a son, whose father is dead, shall not inherit the estate of his grandfather together with his uncles. It certainly seems to be a harsh rule, and is at variance with the English, the Roman, and the Hindoo Laws.* The Moohummudan doctors assign as a reason for denying the right of representation, that a person has not even an inchoate right to the property of his ancestor until the death of such ancestor; and that, consequently, there can be no claim through a deceased person, in whom no right could by possibility have been vested.

It must, at the same time, be admitted, that the heterodox code, or that which is observed by the Schias (commonly called the Iamee'ya sect, as they follow the doctrines of the 12 Imams) can boast of much greater simplicity. This code has hitherto had no weight in India; and even at Lucknow, the seat of heterodox majesty itself, the tenets of the Soonees are adhered to. I have, however, given a compendium of their law of inheritance, extracted from the "Shuraya ool Islam," a work of the highest authority among them.

Principles of Inheritance. General Rules. Chapter I. Section I.

9. The son of a person deceased shall not represent such person, if he died before his father. He shall not stand in the same place as the deceased would have done, had he been living; but shall be excluded from the inheritance, if he have a paternal uncle. For instance, A, B, and C are grandfather, father, and son; the father, B, dies in the lifetime of the grandfather, A; in this case the son, C, shall not take *jure representationis*, but the estate will go to the other sons of A.

Of Inheritance, according to the Iamee'ya, or Schia Doctrine. Chapter II.

(Extract.)

1. According to the tenets of this sect, the right of inheritance proceeds from three different sources.

2. First, it accrues by virtue of consanguinity.

3. There are three degrees of heirs who succeed by virtue of consanguinity; and, so long as there is any one of the first degree, even though a female, none of the second degree can inherit; and so long as there is any one of the second degree, none of the third can inherit.

4. The first degree comprises the parents, and the children, and grandchildren, how low in descent soever; the nearer of whom exclude the more distant.

8. The second degree comprises the grandfather and grandmother, and other ancestors, and brothers and sisters, and their descendants, however low in descent; the nearer of whom exclude the more distant.

Precedents of Inheritance. Chapter I. Case IX.

Q. A woman has two sons, one of them dies in the lifetime of his mother, leaving a daughter; after the woman's death that daughter lays claim to the property left by her, in right of her father. Will her claim be good against the brother of her deceased father; that is to say, her uncle?

R. The daughter can have no claim against her uncle, because her father died in the lifetime of his mother, who has another son living, by whom the daughter is excluded. She can, therefore, have no claim of inheritance to the property of her grandmother.†

(No. 84.)

— No. 6. —

No. 6.

EXTRACT India Political Consultations, 27 March 1837.

COPY of a LETTER from Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah* to the Right Honourable Lord Auckland, Governor-general of India.

My Lord,

Benares, 7 March 1837.

I HAVE been given to understand that the British Government have instituted an investigation for the purpose of ascertaining who is the eldest amongst us in the

* According to the Scottish law, I find that although the right of representation is acknowledged as to real property, yet that it does not obtain in the succession of moveables, except in the single case of a competition between the full blood and half blood. — *Erskine's Principles*, p. 414. *

† See Prin. In. 9.

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the family of the late Nawaub Shums-ood-Dowlah. I have the honour of sending herewith my father's last will and testament, written with his own hands, by which your Lordship will be enabled to perceive the priority of claim of our family. Nawaub Shums-ood-Dowlah, my late lamented father, had four sons, of whom three are living, but the eldest, Nazim-ood-Dowlah, died about the year 1826, leaving four sons and three daughters, all of whom are living. I am the second son, and have been for many years entrusted with all the family concerns, and all the family deeds and writings were given into my charge; if the right had been another's, he surely would by this time have taken some steps regarding the Lucknow succession, as I have done. Under these circumstances, I thought it a duty incumbent on me to bring the subject to your Lordship's notice, lest (as I believe is intended,) a spurious issue should usurp our just rights; a duty, also, to your Lordship, and the natural interest I feel for the welfare of Oude, prompts me to this measure. No person has made known anything regarding this unhappy country to your Lordship but myself; in fact, I have reason to believe it is the interest and wish of certain persons at Lucknow to keep everything in darkness as much as possible; and their desire is, that, on the demise of his present majesty, the throne may fall to a child who has not the least affinity to us by blood, being only a foster-child; and it would be a shame on me to allow this in silence. I have not the presumption, my Lord, to flatter myself that I am capable of governing Oude, at present in a most deplorable state of misery, confusion, and ruin, from the negligence of its rulers. It is not unknown to me that the British Government look with an eye of compassion on this unhappy country; and if, through the kindness of Government, I may be allowed to succeed the present king, I pledge myself to do justice to the inhabitants, and accede to every wish with which your Lordship may be pleased to honour me; I will do my utmost to make the people happy, and devote my whole time and attention to this object alone.

If your Lordship may consider the claim of my eldest nephew, son of the late Nazim-ood-Dowlah, superior to mine, I shall be most happy to see the honour conferred on him, as he is in the direct line of consanguinity; my anxiety is, that the son of a common trooper may not be imposed on the notice and protection of the British Government, to the exclusion and disadvantage of my family; and this, I trust, will plead an excuse for my troubling your Lordship on so important an occasion, and one of such vital importance to us.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah.*

P. S.—May I request the favour of your Lordship having the kindness to return my father's will, after perusal.

I must offer an apology for sending this letter direct to your Lordship's secretary in the political department, but have been obliged to do so, as Mr. Mainwaring declined to forward it.

(No. 85.)

— No. 7. —

7. ORDERED that the following Letter be written in reply to Nawaub Ekbal-ood-Dowlah.

COPY of a LETTER from Mr. Secretary *Macnaghten* to Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah.*

Sir,

Fort William, 27 March 1837.

I AM directed by the Right Honourable the Governor-general of India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 10th instant, inclosing a letter to the address of the Governor-general, together with a document purporting to be the original will of your late father.

2. In reply, I am desired to acquaint you that his Lordship in Council considers it premature at present to enter into consideration of any claims to succeed to the throne of Oude.

3. The original document received with your letter is herewith returned, agreeably to your request.

I have, &c.,

(signed)

W. H. Macnaghten, Secretary to Government.

A P P E N D I X.

Appendix (A.)

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

Appendix (A.)

PROCEEDINGS relating to the two Boys, *Kywan Jah* and *Fureed-oon-Bukht*, commonly called *Moonah Jaun*, formerly acknowledged by the late King of *Oude* as his Sons, but whom he subsequently declared to be spurious.

(No. 1.)

EXTRACT Political Letter, Fort William, dated 4th March 1831.

(No. 1.)

Par. 192. WE beg to refer your Honourable Court to the despatch and enclosures, recorded as per margin, from the resident, relative to the birth and parentage of the youth *Kywan Jah*, whom the king wishes to consider as heir apparent.

1830.

Cons. 3 Decembe
No. 20 to 23.

193. Mr. Maddock was informed, that the Governor-general did not, at that time, deem it necessary to state any opinion on the questions noted in the above despatch.

Cons. 3 December.
No. 24 & 25.

(No. 2.)

EXTRACT Political Letter from Fort William, dated 10th June 1831.

(No. 2.)

Par. 181. THE despatches recorded as per margin relate to inquiries respecting the birth of *Mirza Mohummud Mehndee Fureed-oon-Bukht*, commonly called *Moonah Jaun*, and the evidence that has been obtained for and against the probability that he is the son of the king.

Cons. 28 January.
No. 8 to 10.

(No. 3.)

No. 17.—To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

(No. 3.)

Honourable Sirs,

Fort William, 30th Sept. 1831.

IN our separate address of this date (No. 16) we have submitted the minutes recorded by the Right Honourable the Governor-general and ourselves on the general question of the affairs in Oude.

2. In the present address, we have the honour to lay before your Honourable Court copies of a despatch from the Secretary to the Governor-general, and of minutes and other documents bearing on the subject, relative to the two boys at present acknowledged by the king of Oude as his sons; but of the spurious birth of one or both of whom there seems to be little doubt.

List of Packet,
No. 2.

List No. 3, 5 & 6.

3. For the convenience of reference, copies of such of the despatches from the resident at Lucknow, in former years (adverted to in the Secretary's note of the 16th instant), as have not been transmitted as enclosures in our previous addresses to your Honourable Court on the subject of Oude affairs, are submitted herewith.

List No. 7 & 9.

We have, &c.

(signed)

C. T. Metcalfe.
J. W. Blunt.

(No. 4.)

(No. 17.)—To the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

Honourable Sirs,

Fort William, Secret, 2 July 1832.

IN our address, No. 17, of 1831, dated 30th September, we submitted to the Honourable the Court of Directors copies of minutes recorded by the Right Honourable the Governor-general and ourselves, and of other documents relative to the two boys acknowledged by the king of Oude as his sons.

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

Appendix (A.)
(No. 4.)

2. The subsequent correspondence relative to the subject above adverted to being of a delicate nature, involving the question of succession to the throne of Oude, has been recorded in the secret department; and we have now the honour to submit, for the information of your Honourable Committee, the series of despatches relating to this important matter, including the instructions from the Right Honourable the Governor-general to the resident at Lucknow.

3. Referring your honourable committee to the document now submitted for detailed information on all the particulars of the investigation into the birth and parentage of the boys in question, we deem it sufficient to attract your attention to his Lordship's minute of the 5th May last, regarding the king of Oude's declaration on the subject of the spuriousness of the two boys heretofore pretended to be his sons, and to state, that on the receipt of that document we observed to his Lordship in reply, that we were disposed to consider it very fortunate that that declaration had been made, and that we saw no reason to hesitate in giving credit to it. When the king, we remarked, gave out that the boys were his sons, no one believed him, and the notoriety of the contrary must have caused great embarrassment in the event of the king's death without this declaration, by which it seemed to us all embarrassment was satisfactorily removed, the king's assent confirming what was before universally believed.

4. Should this declaration, we added, be the forerunner of a new intrigue, with a view to set up another spurious heir, the British Government, we conceived, might be on its guard against such an intrigue with less embarrassment than would be caused by hesitating to acknowledge the spuriousness of the present two boys, after the voice of the people had been confirmed by the avowal of the king, an avowal which he could hardly be so unnatural as to make against any child whom he could suppose to be his son.

5. Not entertaining any doubt of the spuriousness of Fureed-oon-Bukht, as well as of Kywan Jah, the two boys above mentioned, we have stated to the Governor-general our opinion, that the declaration of the king ought to be deemed conclusive against the claims of either.

We have, &c.
signed) C. T. Metcalfe.
W. Blunt.

(No. 5.)

(No. 5.)

EXTRACT Political Letter from Fort William, dated 31 December 1832.

1832.
Cons. 9 April.
No. 23 & 24.

Par. 222. THE resident reported, in the despatch recorded as per margin, that on the occasion of the Eed-ool-Fitz, the boys, Kyman Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, had not received the compliment of "haurs," and had not been sent to the mosque, which had been usual for some years past. Major Low considered that these facts appeared to indicate that the king adhered to the resolution he had previously announced of not acknowledging them as his sons.

(No. 6.)

(No. 6.)

EXTRACT Political Letter to Bengal, dated 7 January (No. 2) 1831.

Par. 40. You are already aware that we approve of your avoiding any act by which Kywan Jah may seem to be acknowledged by you as the rightful successor to the throne.*

(No. 7.)

(No. 7.)

To A. Stirling, Esq., Deputy-Secretary to Government in the Political Department.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 24 March 1830.

ON Sunday last, being the Noroz, I breakfasted with the king in the palace of Furrak Buksh, accompanied by the gentlemen of the residency, and some officers from the cantonments. After breakfast his majesty took his seat on the throne, under a salute of artillery; when Kywan Jah and the nobles in attendance, and the European officers in his majesty's service, presented their nuzzurs; nuzzurs were afterwards offered to Kywan Jah by his majesty's European servants, and by most of the native gentlemen, though not by Nawaub Mohsun-ood-Dowlah and a few others. Fureed-oon-Bukht was not present on the occasion, but has since attended to present his nuzzur. Raja Ramdial held the king's train as he walked from the head of the stairs, where it is customary to receive the resident, but was not conspicuous in any subsequent part of the ceremony, though at its termination he had a private audience of his majesty.

2. Thi

* Letter from, dated 3 October 1829, (194). Letters of congratulation were received on the arrival of the Governor-general from the king of Oude and his reputed eldest son, Kywan Jah, bahadur. The latter was not replied to on account of the suspected spuriousness of Kywan Jah.

2. This is not the first occasion when the courtiers and servants of the king have been ordered to present their nuzzurs to the youth, Kywan Jah, but it is the first time that it has occurred since my arrival at Lucknow; and as it appears to me that if the practice is continued, with the tacit assent of the resident, it will be taken as an acknowledgment on the part of the British Government of Kywan Jah's title as heir apparent, for these offerings are made to him as such, I conceive it proper to bring the subject specially to the notice of the Governor-general in Council.

3. The manner in which it is universally believed that Kywan Jah, when an infant, was introduced into the palace, has been made known to Government; and your instructions on the subject of the line of conduct proper for the resident to pursue, with regard to him and Fureed-on-Bukht, whom the king also calls his son, are on the records of the office. But Government must at some period or other adopt a more decisive course of proceeding than was then prescribed; and in the meantime it deserves consideration how long it can be proper or just to the youth himself to persevere in a course which must sanction, in appearance, pretensions which I imagine can never be realized.

4. The king's persisting to assert that Kywan Jah is his son, in defiance of the notoriety of the fact he was more than two years old before his majesty ever saw his mother, is regarded as a species of infatuation arising from the mother's influence over the king's mind, and can have little effect in inducing others to credit the assertion. But it may be considered a strong argument against his former assertion, that he really believed the younger boy, Fureed-on-Bukht, to be his son; and I have reason to suppose that the report of that child having once been acknowledged by the late king as his grandson, as communicated to Government by Major Raper in his despatch dated 10th April 1821, was a fabrication; that the opinion of the late king on the subject, as declared to Mr. Monckton, was never altered, and that he never did treat Fureed-on-Bukht as his grandson.

5. While we have the strongest reasons to discredit the king's assertion respecting the birth of Kywan Jah, I cannot conceive the propriety of our permitting the world to believe that we offer no objection to his title to succeed to the crown on the demise of the present sovereign. That title is virtually acknowledged by the nobles of the court when they present nuzzurs to him as heir apparent; but their acquiescence in a custom which they are ordered to adopt, and to which they see no objection offered by the representative of the Governor-general, who they know must ultimately decide upon the succession, can form no argument in favour of the boy's legitimacy or right of inheritance. As long as we remain silent on the subject, they cannot oppose the wishes of the ruling power. It cannot be understood that the resident, as a mere matter of form, would regard as heir apparent him whom the king and his court treat as such. They conceive, rather, that the resident should set an example of the proper course to be followed on such an occasion.

6. The Governor-general is aware that Kywan Jah was sent, as heir apparent or second person in the kingdom, to meet me on my approach to Lucknow; and on all public occasions he is invariably placed in the situation to which, in that character, he is entitled. To these marks of distinction no objection can be offered by the resident. They may be regarded as indications only of the king's affection for the child, and are of a nature widely differing from those forms and ceremonies which are considered as the recognition of a specific right or title; and if the king is pleased to treat both the children as his sons, some superiority may be allowed to the elder on account of his age, without acknowledging his right to it on any other grounds.

7. The two boys were formerly regarded by the resident as of equal rank, and it was not till the month of December 1827 that Mr. Ricketts made any distinction between them. He was then induced to do so at the request of the king, for the reasons stated in his letter of the 1st December 1827; but it appears to me very unfortunate that his majesty was not at that time dissuaded from bringing forward Kywan Jah to be treated as heir apparent; he might then have been easily convinced of the future bad consequences of thus creating expectations unlikely ever to be fulfilled. Now he may feel repugnance to the discontinuance of forms, the prohibition of which would appear a degradation to Kywan Jah; and the best method that can be adopted, if the king were disposed to remove the impression that Kywan Jah is destined to succeed him, would be to allow the same forms to be observed towards Fureed-on-Bukht also.

8. If Government disapproves of the distinctions which have been hitherto shown to Kywan Jah, it is evident that the sooner they are discontinued the less painful will be the change to him. It is only necessary, I imagine, that the resident should decline to be present at any ceremony where he is to be treated as heir apparent, to ensure the adoption of some plan that will prevent his being any longer regarded as such. His apparent recognition by the British resident would thus, at all events, be discontinued, and no weight would then be attached to any forms which the dependents of the king might be obliged to observe towards him.

9. If Government requires further particulars relating to the birth of Fureed-on-Bukht and the introduction of Kywan Jah into the palace, I will endeavour to collect, from the most authentic sources, a satisfactory account of the circumstances. These are best known, probably, to the ex-minister Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, and his account of them, if, in consequence of the enmity which he may be supposed to bear to the royal family, it should appear suspicious, may admit of corroboration or refutation from other quarters.

10. The youth of the present king ought not, I think, to be considered a reason for deferring an inquiry to ascertain and decide upon the claims of these children, the elder of whom

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Appendix (A.)
(No. 7.)

Mr. Stirling's letter to Mr. Ricketts, dated 11 January 1828. *

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Appendix (A.)
(No. 7.)

whom is son of one of the king's begums, Malha Zumaunee, while the cause of the younger is espoused by the queen mother, Padshah Begum. His majesty is not likely to have any issue hereafter, and his constitution and habits are not such as to promise him a long life.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*, Resident.

(True copy.)

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 8.)

(No. 8.)

To *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Resident at Lucknow.

Sir,

Fort William, 16 April 1830.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 24th ultimo, on the subject chiefly of the line of conduct proper to be pursued by the British Government towards the youth whom the king of Oude has thought fit to introduce to the court as his son, and to nominate heir apparent, and in reply to state as follows:

2. Under the extraordinary circumstances of the case already adverted to in the instructions of the 11th January 1828, the Governor-general in Council will be prepared to make a formal and public declaration that the British Government can never recognize the boy called Kywan Jah as the heir apparent of the State of Oude. But before any final steps are taken on a matter of so much importance, his Lordship in Council is desirous of having before him the most complete and authentic information which it is in your power to collect regarding the birth, parentage, and introduction to the palace, both of Kywan Jah, and Fureed-oon-Bukht. You will be pleased, therefore, to prepare and submit a full report, of the nature indicated in paragraph 9 of your letter, taking care of course to observe every practicable degree of delicacy towards the royal family in conducting the inquiries which you may institute.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *A. Stirling*, Deputy Secretary to Government.

(True copy.)

(signed) *G. Swinton*, Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 9.)

(No. 9.)

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations of 3 December 1830.

(No. 20.)—From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Resident at Lucknow, to Mr. Chief Secretary *Swinton*.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 13 November 1830.

Enclosing a duplicate of Despatch to Mr. Sec. Prinsep.

I HAVE the honour to forward for the information of the Honourable the Vice-President in Council, a duplicate of my despatch of this date to Mr. Secretary Prinsep.

I have, &c.,

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*, Resident.

(No. 10.)

(No. 10.)

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Resident at Lucknow, to Mr. Secretary *Prinsep*, in attendance on the Governor-general, Head Quarters.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 13 November 1830.

I HAVE met with more difficulties than I anticipated in collecting materials for a satisfactory report to Government on the subject of the birth and parentage of the youths Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, who are styled and treated as sons of the king of Oude; but as it will be proper that the Right Honourable the Governor-general should be in possession of all the information which I can communicate before his Lordship's arrival in these territories, I shall in reply to the late Mr. Stirling's despatch of the 16th April, proceed to lay before you some account of the elder boy, Kywan Jah, whom it has been the king's wish to have acknowledged as heir apparent; and I hope to be able to submit in a few days all the evidence which it seems possible to collect respecting the birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht.

2. The difficulties to which I allude, concern only the investigation of the birth of the younger boy, and I am now waiting for evidence to be taken at Cawnpore, which, it is expected, will throw some light upon the subject. The birth of Kywan Jah is too generally known to admit of doubt, and the statements which I enclose of his mother's early life, and which are derived from members of the family of the late Mohubbut Khan, where she for a time lived, and from the ex-minister Moutumud-ood-Dowlah, may be considered sufficient authority for what I have stated regarding him in my former report of the 24th March 1830.

3. It appears from these accounts that Kywan Jah's mother, the present Moolha Zumaunee, was the daughter of a Coorinee, by whom she was sold, or pawned in liquidation of a debt,

to

to a person named Talet Moorah, and was married to a man named Roostum, the son, by a former marriage, of a woman whom Talet Moorah had made his second or inferior wife. After Talet Moorah's death, the inferior wife turned out of the house the mother of Roostum, and her family, and they sought refuge, and were for a time entertained in the house of a niece of Talet Moorah; but being expelled from thence also, and the conduct of Roostum's wife having given him offence, he separated from her, and leaving Lucknow took service as a syee. The boy Mohummud Allee, now Kywan Jah, had been born before his departure, and his mother, Mulha Zumaanee, took service as a wet nurse in different families. Mohummud Allee was three years old, and Mulha Zumaanee had a daughter at the breast when the boy Fureed-oon-Bukht was born in the palace, and she was selected from among a number of candidates to become his wet nurse.

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Appendix (A.)
(No. 10.)

4. She was then not very young, and her appearance was not attractive, but she soon became the king's favourite, and obtained a wonderful degree of influence over his mind. He married her, and when he succeeded to the throne he conferred upon her, her present title, and a jageer of about six lacs of rupees per annum. It was then that her ambition prompted her to prevail upon his majesty to acknowledge Kywan Jah as his son, and this he affirmed to be the case to the resident, and, when particularly questioned on the subject, to Lord Combermere, during his lordship's stay at Lucknow.

5. When Government received the resident's report of these circumstances, it was deemed expedient to postpone giving any judgment on the case; and the resident was instructed to treat the youth as the king's son, if he was acknowledged as such by the court; but the resident, misunderstanding, I conceive, the orders which he had received, not only treated him as a son of the king, but allowed him to be styled "heir apparent," and his health to be drunk, at public parties at the residency, as "wullee uhud" of the kingdom.

6. Of the circumstances which have occurred, since my arrival at Lucknow, to confirm the general impression that Kywan Jah is acknowledged as the heir apparent, by the tacit consent of our government, my report of the 24th March will have apprised his Lordship; and, in my despatch of the 28th July, I had occasion to remark upon an order of the Oude Government being issued to one of its officers, under the sword, or signature, of Kywan Jah. Official mandates are countersigned in this manner by no other person but the king's representative, whether he be heir apparent or naib of the kingdom; and it having been represented to me that the practice of Kywan Jah countersigning such papers had been introduced by Mehndee Allee Khan, I took an opportunity of asking the hukeem how he, who knew, from my conversations with him, that the youth's pretensions would never be admitted by the British government, could have advised or allowed the adoption of this measure; when the hukeem denied that the practice had been introduced by him, and assured me that it had been enforced before he came to Lucknow. Whether this is the case I have not taken any steps to ascertain. The practice, as well as that of presenting nuzzurs to Kywan Jah, as heir apparent, will, of course, be discontinued when his Lordship publicly announces that he will not acknowledge the youth's pretensions.

7. Kywan Jah preceded the king, to meet Lord Combermere, on his lordship's visit to Lucknow. He was sent out to meet me, on my approach to this place, last year; and it is possible that his majesty may propose to send him in advance to Cawnpore, to welcome Lord William Bentinck on his arrival there. The person deputed on such a mission ought to be the heir apparent, if there is one; and if not, a person of the highest rank, or nearest related to the king; and it will be for his Lordship to judge whether it would be respectful in the king to send this youth, or expedient for his Lordship to receive him; and I hope to receive your instructions, what reply I am to give to such a proposition, if it should be made. There are several sons of Saadut Allee Khan residing at Lucknow, who would apparently be the fittest persons for his majesty to depute on this occasion; but they are not treated with confidence or cordiality by the king, and he is not likely to select any of them. Mehndee Allee Khan would himself aspire to be the bearer of the king's compliments on his Lordship's approach, but he holds no actual office in the state, and his own rank would not entitle him to this distinction.

I have, &c.

(signed) T. H. Maddock, Resident.

ABSTRACT.

In reply to instructions of the 16th April, states the occurrence of unexpected difficulties, in investigating the circumstances of the birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht, and encloses statements regarding that of Kywan Jah, recapitulating the history of that youth's mother, her introduction into the palace, her influence and marriage with the king; refers to former resident's report, on his majesty's having declared her child his son and heir, and his proceedings with regard to the youth, after the receipt of Government's instructions on the subject; and alludes to the manner in which the boy has lately been brought forward in public; and, finally, solicits orders how he is to act with respect to Kywan Jah, or any other person whom the king may propose to depute to meet the Governor-general.

(signed) T. H. Maddock, Resident.

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Appendix (A.)
(No. 10.)

(No. 21.)—A Brief History of *Mussummut Hoosainee*, the Female Slave of *Hulum-ool-Nissa*, and now designated by the title of *Mulka Zumaunee*: received from *Moatumud oo-Dowlah*.

IN the house of Hafiz Ruhmut Khan there was a Mussulmanee woman, of the tribe of Chumars; she had a daughter named Bubboo. Nawaub Mohubbut Khan, son of the late Hafiz Ruhmut Khan, captivated by the fair looks of Bubboo, took her as his mistress; and, to instruct her, employed a governess, whose name was Buddu-ool-Nissa, styled in the Oordos, or common language, "Ulto," whom he placed at the head of his female servants.

From Bubboo were born three sons; the eldest, Shah Allum; the second, Jusoff Khan; and the third, Usghere Mehadee Allee Khan. Bubboo also gave him three daughters.

In addition to Bubboo, the khan had selected two other slave girls as his mistresses. It happened that Hyder Allee Khan and Amaun Khan fornicated with those two girls, the mistresses of their father, who no sooner heard of it than he put the girls to death, and turned out of the house the governess, Budur-ool-Nissa, together with her sister's daughter, Hulum-ool-Nissa. Now the slave girl, Hoosainee (the heroine of this story) was in the service of this Hulum-ool-Nissa, having been bought of Bolur Khan, a foot soldier, for 30 rupees. Hulum-ool-Nissa had a daughter, named Gohur-ool-Nissa, who, together with Hulum-ool-Nissa, was ejected from the house; at this time Hulum-ool-Nissa died, and, by virtue of inheritance, Hoosainee, the slave girl, became the property of Gohur-ool-Nissa, the daughter of the deceased Hulum-ool-Nissa. The son of the late Hulum-ool-Nissa went to Benares, as a servant of the late Shumsher-oo-Dowlah, and, invited his sister, Gohur-ool-Nissa, to join him at Benares. She, having no money, left in pawn, with one Rustom, an elephant coolie, the slave girl Hoosainee; and, with the money so obtained, Gohur-ool-Nissa proceeded on her way to her brother at Benares; but, after her departure, the man Rustom fornicated with Hoosainee (now Mulka Zumaunee), and she became pregnant. Rustom was ashamed, and wrote to her mistress, Gohur-ool-Nissa, proposing that the girl should either be redeemed from pledge, or that she should be sold. Gohur-ool-Nissa wrote, giving her assent to the sale; and, on receipt of this, Rustom and Hoosainee were married. When Nawaub Mohubbut Khan died, his son, Allee Akbur Khan, recalled Buddu-ool-Nissa, the governess, and established her as usual in his house; but, because of its smallness, he lodged Hoosainee and her husband in the house of Hoshmund, an eunuch; and in that place was born the boy, Mohumda, the heir apparent, who has now obtained the title of Kywan Jah, bahadoor. A woman named Beekur, a sweeper in the service of Ulee Ukbur Khan, cut the navel string of the heir apparent, and got four tricca pice for this service. She is now in the house of the late Ullee Ukbur Khan, but she is very old and infirm.

When the slave girl (now Mulka Zumaunee) and her husband were pinched for their daily food, she took service as a wet-nurse in the families of Moolnee Zumeen Allee and others, and her boy she gave over in charge to a woman named Hurseea, for a remuneration of one rupee eight annas monthly.

The boy Mahoma Kywan Jah was betrothed in marriage to the granddaughter of a woman Peearee, the wife of an elephant driver: the betrothed granddaughter died, and to this day the heir apparent continues to call Peearee by the appellation of "nanee" or "grandmother," a title by which the woman is known, and the heir apparent is called her grandson. This Peearee, the "ranee," is now a muhuldar of Mulka Zumaunee, and is allowed an extra provision in consequence of the former connexion.

Hoosainee, when, for some cause, discharged from the house of Moolnee Zumeen Allee, went in the same capacity of wet-nurse to the house of Ameer Mirza of Ashrufabad, and there took service. At this time she had a daughter born to her, and this daughter is now betrothed to the grandson of Nuneer-oo-Dowlah, bahadoor; with the milk of this infant she took service as wet-nurse to Mirza Fureed-oon-Bukht, (the youngest of the princes so called). Exalted indeed has been her fortune, to ascend from such a grade to the high title of Mulka Zumaunee!

She represented to his majesty her desire to bring her mother and her beloved relatives, and her wish to bring Gohur-ool-Nissa (her former mistress) and her brother, from Benares. The king gave his sanction, and when Gohur-ool-Nissa and her household entered this city, she was sick. Mulka Zumaunee proceeded to meet her as far as the gate of the palace, Muhal Serae, and with kindness and courtesy led her to the interior, and then seated her upon her own musnud, and personally, together with the king, caused presents to be offered to her; she was afterwards taken to have an interview with the Badcha Begum. Her highness the Begum having embraced her, seated her upon the musnud beside herself; but suddenly violent pains seized upon Gohur-ool-Nissa, who was removed from the spot by the governess Budur-ool-Nissa, her aunt, and by Mulka Zumaunee, who supported her to her own palace; and at the same time having got into her palankeen, Budur-ool-Nissa and two thousand rupees were sent to the house of Haris Alle, the brother of the Mulka Jahilieh. In the morning tidings came that Gohur-ool-Nissa was dead; Mulka Zumaunee greatly mourned and grieved, and sat lamenting. The king sent 1,000 rupees by Hahid Beg and Meer Muhud Allee, daroghas of the Ferash Khanshs, for the funeral expenses of the departed female.

(True Translation.)

(signed) James Paton, Assistant Resident.

(No. 22).— ACCOUNT of *Mulka Zumaanee*, received from *Mookun Khan*, son of *Nawaub Mohubbut Khan*.

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Appendix (A.)
(No. 10.)

Sheikh Mahomed Hahsnkh Khoosh Nunees, an inhabitant of Lahore, was a relation of Hafiz Khoorsheed, also of that city, who had received from the king the title of khan, and being invited by the Nawaub Vizier Amph-oo Dowlah, left Shajehanabad and came to Lucknow. Sheikh Mahomed Wasnkh took up his abode with Hafiz Khoorsheed, who was at that time employed as tutor to the descendants of the Nawaub Khan Khanan, commonly called the Munnoo, a resident of Saadutgunge. Hafiz associated with himself as tutor Sheikh Mahomed Hasnkh, who was established by the presence as the instructor of Wuzeer Allee Khan, and there spent the remainder of his life. When he died, his son, Sheikh Talib Morad, was discontinued from the service of the Nawaub Vizier, and together with his sister Kuramut-ool-Nissa, Sheikh Talib Morad proceeded to Benares, where he became the Mokhtar of the Shahzadah Inhandur Shah.

A person of the tribe of Kromees borrowed from Kuramut-ool-Nissa, the sister of Sheikh Talib Morad, the sum of 60 rupees as a loan, but being unable to repay the money, she gave her own daughter, Dolaree (now Mulka Zumaanee, one of the queens of Oude) as the payment of the debt. Kuramut-ool-Nissa adopted this girl as her own daughter, and called her by the name of Hoosainee. But agreeably to the proverb that "where the root is evil, the fruit is bad," Hoosainee proved to be of a loose and abandoned character; her mistress Kuramut-ool-Nissa therefore employed her as a slave, and adopted as a daughter the child of a poor though respectable family, and this child's name was Gohur-ool-Nissa.

When the Shahzadeh Azim-ool-Moolk died, Sheikh Talib Morad left Benares and came to Lucknow, and resided in the house of his aunt; and as this aunt was employed in the family of the late Nawaub Mohubbut Khan to instruct the daughters of the house to read the Koran, it happened that occasional visits to the house took place. At this time there arrived in this city a widow, with Rustom, her son. This widow was taken in marriage by Sheikh Talib Morad, to whom she bore two sons more, Kasim Khan and Mukboot Khan; but Sheikh Talib Morad having no employment here, returned with this wife and the three sons to Benares, and there remained, and to him were there born by his first wife two more sons, Futty Allee Khan and Waris Allee Khan. After several years Kuramut-ool-Nissa said to her brother Sheikh Talib Morad, my female servant Hoosainee (now Mulka Zumaanee), a loose and bad woman, has fornicated with Rustom, the son of your second wife; let them now be married: and Sheikh Talib Morad accordingly had them married. But as, after some years, Sheikh Talib Morad died, his first wife had no friendship for the second wife; she turned her and her sons out, and they came to Lucknow, and lived in the house of Mullatee, before-named, who was a servant in the Sirdar of Nawaub Mohubbut Khan, and who, in consideration of the relationship with her husband, received her. Then it was that Hoosainee was in the habit of accompanying the daughter of the Mullatee Budder-ool-Nissa to the house of Nawaub Mohubbut Khan; but as Hoosainee's loose character was well known, Budder-ool-Nissa prohibited her from coming to the Nawaub's house; and for the preservation of her own character from injury, from associating with Hoosainee, Budder-ool-Nissa even turned out of her house the mother of Rustom and the other. This woman ere long died. Kasim Khan obtained service as a sowar, and Rustom (the husband of Hoosainee, now Mulka Zumaanee) became a groom. At this time Hoosainee brought forth a son, who was named Mohummud Allee; and though many persons in the city assert that the father of this child was a blacksmith, the neighbour of Hoosainee, yet, being born in Rustom's house, he is called Rustom's son; God knows who is the father. When, at length, Rustom became aware of the loose character of Hoosainee, his wife, he put her away, and himself left the city. She, on his departure, took service somewhere as an aseel, and fornicated with her master's son, and became pregnant. When this was known she was turned out of doors by the master of the house, and in this troubled state she gave birth to a female child. By good fortune it happened that at this period a son was born to the king; Maruim Makanee called in Hoosainee, and gave her service as nurse, to give milk to the young prince; but as Hoosainee was an intriguing shrewd woman, the eyes of the king, ere many days, fell favourably upon her; and such was the impression made upon the heart of the king, that she quite eclipsed the Nawaub Sultan Muhul and other females of distinction; by the favour of God the king exalted her to the throne of his kingdom, and bestowed upon Hoosainee the title of Mulka Zumaanee, and to her son was given the title of Kywan Jah, who was exalted above the Nawaub Sultan Muhul and the prince Fureed-oon-Jah. When Hoosainee saw that the affections of the king towards her had no bounds, she gave him to understand that she was descended from a high family, the daughter of a man of rank; that her mother and brethren were in the country of Benares, serving the Shahzadeh Mirza Hajee, desiring to call them if the king would permit. The king was greatly pleased, and gave his consent. Hoosainee, now Mulka Zumaanee, called from Benares Kuramut-ool-Nissa and Gohur-ool-Nissa, together with Futty Allee Khan, and Waris Allee Khan, sons of Sheikh Talib Morad's first wife, and lodged them in the house of Kasim Khan, the son by the second wife. Kuramut-ool-Nissa, some days after her arrival here, died. Hoosainee styled Gohur-ool-Nissa her sister, and brought her to the palace. Waris Allee Khan was honoured by the king with the title of Ebtisham-ood-Dowlah, and distinguished by a dress of honour, and the customary gifts of an elephant, a horse, and a palankeen; and to his management was entrusted the tract of country bestowed in jageer upon Mulka Zumaanee; Kasim Allee Khan was made the darogha of her Muhal. Budder-ool-Nissa, the daughter of the Mullatee before-

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named, together with Jameel-ool-Nissa, her daughter, she called from the house of Nawaub Mohubbut Khan, and bestowed upon her the title of Khaneem Sahibeh, and made her manager of her affairs.

Hoosainee now became desirous to form alliances for her children with the near relations of the king, and having raised her son to the high dignity of heir apparent, she had him married to the daughter of Rahum-oo-Dowlah, commonly called Mahomed Hoosain Khan, son of the late Nawaub Saadut Allee Khan. Her daughter she named Jazree Begum, and dignified by the title of Moorshed Zadeh, and betrothed her to the grandson of Nawaub Nusseer-ood-Dowlah. This marriage was celebrated with much pomp and splendour.

Hoosainee's husband, Rustom, having heard of these things, came to Lucknow; Hoosainee told the king of his arrival; the king imprisoned him, and sent him to the pergunnah of Banger, where till this day he is in confinement.

The high fortunes of this woman led her to direct the offspring of Hafiz Khoorshed, now in Lucknow, to say, whenever questioned as to her history, that she was their near and respected relation. Mulka Zumaunee and the descendants of Sheikh Talib Morad, accordingly declare themselves as being of the family of Hafiz Khoorshed, and they continue to assert their relationship to Mulka Zumaunee. But the real birth and parentage of Hoosainee are as has been stated.

(signed) James Paton, Assistant Resident.

(No. 23.)—ACCOUNT of *Moolka Zumaunee*, from the Family of the late Nawaub *Mohubbut Khan*, where she once lived.

THE following is the history of Dolaree, the slave girl of Taluk Morad Khan, of the tribe Seehaf. Taluk Morad resided in the serae of Mael Khan, and had two wives, one an Afghan, by whom he had three sons, Khasim Khan, Rustoom Khan, and Mohubbut Khan. The second wife was a sheikhanee, who brought him forth two sons, Fatty Allee and Waris Allee, both of whom now bear the titles of Khan and Nawaub.

Budder-ool-Nissa, the sister of the sheikhanee, was employed in the muhul of the late Nawaub Mohubbut Khan, in instructing the daughters of the family, under the appellation of Beebee Mullatee. When the sheikhanee died, she, for her ability, took charge of all the children. Near to the house of Taluk Morad, there lived a man who was of the Koormee tribe, who had dealings in money matters with the family of Taluk Morad, from which the Koormee once borrowed a sum of money to enable him to purchase cloth; he absconded, leaving in his house his wife and child, a girl of about five years old, named Dolaree; Talah Morad apprehended both, demanding his money, but she could not pay; and, as a last resource, this woman sold her own daughter, Dolaree, to Taluk Morad for 60 rupees.

When this girl Dolaree arrived at the age of puberty, she was caught with Rustoom, the son of Talah Morad; who, when he heard of it, gave the girl Dolaree to his son Rustoom, to remain in his service. Talah Morad after this died.

Great distress overtook those he left behind. Dolaree often wandered in the bazaars and gullies, and the men of Maulee Khan's serae affirmed that she formed an intimacy with a blacksmith and with an elephant driver. It is not, therefore, known whether the blacksmith, the elephant driver, or coolie, or Rustoom, be the father of the boy Mahomed Allee, now heir apparent, under the title of Kywan Jah, (exalted as the planet Jupiter), or which is the father of the girl also the offspring of Dolaree.

When Dolaree resided in the house of the late Nawaub Mohubbut Khan, in the service of Beebee Mullatee, she, with her two children, were in the habit of visiting there for one or two weeks or months, and used to return with the dry bread to her own house. Mohummud Allee (heir apparent), was then about three years of age, and had been weaned from milk, and could run about. Dolaree's daughter was still at the breast, and was about one year and a half of age. Rustoom also frequently came to the house of the late Nawaub Mohubbut Khan, and having got his dinner, returned to his duty as a groom in the service of Mirza Abbas Kullee Beg, of Mohulla Ashrufussud, who is one of the king's sowars.

The star of fortune now dawned upon the horizon of events. The young prince was born in the palace of the queen-mother, the Badshah Begum, and chuprassees ran to and fro searching the palaces for a nurse to give milk to the infant. These tidings reached Rustoom Naggar; "Where is the house of the late Nawaub Mohubbut Khan?" Bebee Mullatee said to Dolaree. "If, through any interest, you can gain an entrance into the palace of the Badshah Begum, good service will certainly be yours." Dolaree followed the chuprassees to the Begum's palace; and as Dolaree was a young woman, the royal physicians approved of her milk, and she was chosen to nurse the young prince Moona Jaun, from which much benefit accrued.

About that time Beebee Mullatee and her daughter Jumeel-ool-Nissa, also her son Kasim Beg were brought by Dolaree from the muhul of the late Nawaub Mohubbut Khan, and placed near herself.

When the king exalted Dolaree, the wet nurse, to the throne of the kingdom, he bestowed upon her the title of Mulka Zumaunee, "the Queen of the time," and Beebee Mullatee obtained the title of Khanum Sahibeh. Jumeel-ool-Nissa retains her own name; Kasim Beg

is a servant upon 100 rupees. Fatty Allee Khan and Waris Allee Khan are now Nawaubs ; Kasim Khan and Muhbool Khan both remain in their former sphere, while Rustoom Khan is a prisoner in the village of Mullaena. They say that he speaks not of granting a divorce to his wife (the queen). This is a faithful account, as gathered from those who heard and saw the circumstances.

(signed) *Jas. Paton*, Assistant Resident.

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(No. 11.)

(No. 24.)—From Mr. Secretary *Prinsep*, in attendance on the Governor-general, Head Quarters, to Mr. Chief Secretary *Swinton*.

(No. 11.)

Sir,

Camp at Goosiah, 24 November 1830.

I AM directed to transmit to you for the information of the Honourable the Vice President in Council, the annexed copy of a letter this day addressed by command of the Right Honourable the Governor-general to the Resident at Lucknow, in reply to that officer's despatch dated 13th instant.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. T. Prinsep*, Secretary to the Governor-general.

Ordered, that the following letter addressed by the Secretary to the Governor-general to the Resident at Lucknow, in reply to his letter recorded as Nos. 20 to 23 of this Consultation be here recorded.

(No. 12.)

(No. 25.)—From Mr. Secretary *Prinsep*, in attendance on the Governor-general, Head Quarters, to *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Resident at Lucknow.

(No. 12.)

Sir,

Camp at Goosiah, 24 November 1830.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 13th instant, with enclosures, and in reply to state that with reference to the proximity of the date when his Lordship will have the opportunity of personally conferring with you on the subject of this communication, his Lordship deems it unnecessary at present to state any opinion on the questions mooted therein ; more especially as the communication you will have made to his majesty under the instructions contained in my letter, dated the 13th instant, will render it unnecessary to come to any immediate decision, in respect to the deputation of Istugbal, and will enable you to meet any proposition on the subject that may be made by or on the part of his majesty.

His Lordship expects you will come over to meet the camp at Futtehpoore in the Dooab, as proposed in the notes that have passed in a demi-official shape, which is the opportunity referred to above.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. T. Prinsep*, Secretary to the Governor-general.

(True copy.)

(signed) *H. T. Prinsep*, Secretary to the Governor-general.

(True copies.)

(signed) *G. Swinton*, Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 13.)

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations, of 28 January 1831.

(No. 8.)—From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Resident at Lucknow, to Mr. Chief Secretary *Swinton*.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 1 January 1831.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of the Honourable the Vice-President in Council, a duplicate of my despatch of this date to Mr. Secretary *Prinsep*.

I have, &c.

(signed) *T. H. Maddock*, Resident.

(No. 14.)

(Duplicate.)

From *T. H. Maddock*, Esq., Resident at Lucknow, to *H. T. Prinsep*, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 1 January 1831.

I HAVE now the honour to submit, for the information of the Right Honourable the Governor-general, copies of the depositions of several individuals relative to the birth of the

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youth Moonah Jaun, called Mirza Mohummud Mehndee, with the title Fureed-oon-Bukht, together with a statement, drawn out by the ex-minister Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, of certain circumstances connected with the child's birth, and the investigations instituted by the late king to ascertain whether he was or was not a son of the present king.

2. The different depositions of Sheikh Zeeoolah Mehtaub, midwife Dilamur Khan, and Mobutee Khanum, taken before the judge of Cawnpore, will be found to confirm the statement of Moatumud-ood-Dowlah; but it must be recollected that their evidence was procured by him, and may therefore have received a colouring from his belief of the real circumstances of the case, or from the impression which he may wish to have conveyed of the spurious birth of Moonah Jaun.

3. If we are to credit the testimony of these witnesses, they prove two important facts; first, that the washerman's wife, whom the late king believed to be the mother of Moonah Jaun, was, shortly before his birth, conveyed to the palace of the Padsha Begum, being eight months gone with child; and secondly, that Sookhchein, whom the Padshah Begum represented to be the mother, never was with child. If we could rely implicitly on these two facts, the natural inference would be, that the late king's suspicions were correct, and that the washerman's wife was the mother of Moonah Jaun.

4. Sheikh Zeeoolah proves the conveyance of Munna, the washerman's wife, to the palace.

5. Mehtaub, midwife, declares that the Khowass Sookhchein was not pregnant before the birth of Moonah Jaun; that, although a new-born child was brought to her, she did not assist in its mother's labour, and knows not who the mother was; and that Sookhchein, the reputed mother, would not submit to the treatment usual to promote the recovery of women in child-bed.

6. The evidence of Dilamur Khan proves only that Munna, the washerman's wife, was placed in confinement under his charge after the birth of Moonah Jaun, and that she informed him of her having been brought to bed in the palace, and afterwards sent away. But he states one fact not before known, and which may appear of importance, namely, that she was subsequently sent to the house of Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, where she remained.

7. The midwife's evidence is confirmed by that of Moabutee Khanum, a discarded servant in the Padshah Begum's palace, who declares that Moonah Jaun was not the son of Sookhchein, but of a Dhobia.

8. On the other hand, there is the evidence of Chotee Khan, which, however, has not been regularly taken, but was conveyed to me by a son of Moonshee Mirza, banker, in whose family the washerman, whose wife is said to have been brought to bed in the palace, was entertained as a servant, probably, as it appears, by the advice of Mr. Monckton, then resident, who states, that the washerman's wife eloped with a sowar, and, being detected and taken from him, was conveyed to the house of Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, when she was delivered of a daughter.

9. And the statement of Mohummud Allee Khan goes only to offering an explanation of the suspicious circumstances which led to doubts being entertained of Sookhchein being the mother of Moonah Jaun. He has, however, fully confirmed the statement of Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, that the late king never acknowledged the child as his grandson; and as he was in the late king's confidence, and constantly about his person, his evidence on this point must be regarded as conclusive.

10. These various statements must be compared with the resident's reports, in 1820, of the circumstances attending the birth of this child. At that period it seems to have been the impression of the resident, and of Government, that the king's refusal to acknowledge this child as his grandson was instigated by the minister, Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, out of enmity to the Padshah Begum and the present king; and as it now appears that the woman whom they alleged to be the mother of the child was then in their custody, and that they possessed all the links of evidence requisite to prove that she had brought forth a son in the Padshah Begum's palace, why, it may be asked, were not these facts distinctly stated to the resident, and the woman produced to prove them to his satisfaction? It appears quite unaccountable that the king or the minister should have neglected so simple and obvious a mode of setting all doubts at rest, and satisfying the British Government that they were not actuated by any feelings of enmity, but had sure grounds for the belief of what they affirmed. It seemed to me no less strange that Mr. Monckton's official note to the king, of the 4th November 1820, recorded with his letter to Government of the 20th of the following month, in which he distinctly says that he had not then received a reply to that note, though he understood the king was prosecuting some inquiries into the matter, should have remained altogether unnoticed and unanswered; for I can find in the residency office no trace of any reply returned to that paper.

11. Moatumud-ood-Dowlah has, however, positively assured me that the resident's note was answered, and that the king entered fully into the particulars of the investigation that had been held regarding the birth of the child, and of the proofs that he was the son of the Dhobia, and not of Sookhchein. Mr. Monckton resigned his situation, and left Lucknow shortly after the date of his last despatch to Government on this subject; and if he received from the king any such communication as that alluded to by Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, it is possible that, in the bustle of his departure, it may have been mislaid, and been kept from the knowledge of Colonel Raper, who succeeded him in the charge of the office; and if

Moatumud-ood-Dowlah

Moatumud-ood-Dowlah's statement can be depended upon, that the Padshah Begum expended large sums of money to prevent the detection of her plots to have Moonah Jaun recognized as the present king's son, it is not impossible that persons in her interest may have found means to suppress or destroy a paper of so much consequence to the success of her plans. Yet, in that case, it can hardly be imagined that Mr. Monckton's successor would not, in the course of his conversations with the king and minister on this subject, have discovered that such a document had been given in, and on finding it missing, have procured from the royal duffur a copy of it. But from that time to this, no allusion has been officially made to any such document.

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12. Could it have been proved at the time that the king, as is stated by Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, had, previously to the birth of Moonah Jaun, suspected some imposition, in consequence of the long period during which Sookhchein had been reported pregnant, and had in consequence enjoined the Padshah Begum to have all his female relatives in attendance at the time of her delivery, and that the Padshah Begum had neglected to take this precaution, and had allowed the matter to be managed in secrecy; and had the washerman's wife been produced at the same time, with proofs that she had been delivered of a son in the Begum's palace, and had Sookhchein been personally examined by females in whom the resident could place confidence, and have been found free from all indications of her having lately been confined; the doubts respecting the child's birth would have been changed into certainties. All this, it would seem, must have been very easy, if the statements of Moatumud-ood-Dowlah are correct: and it is unaccountable why these precautions should have been neglected, if the king were convinced of the deception practised upon him, and wished, as he appeared to do, to convince the resident of the same; that the attendance of the ladies of the royal family was not required by the Padshah Begum at the time of the child's birth, as admitted by Mohummed Allee Khan, who advocates her cause and that of Moonah Jaun; and the circumstance of Sookhchein, his reputed mother, having borne him in her womb for more than two years, of itself a sufficient proof of some deception, is allowed by the Begum herself, and adduced too by her, at a subsequent period, in justification of the same, woman's pregnancy for a still longer term without any issue; though the latter story was probably trumped up to add to the plausibility of the former, and to convince people that she was the mother of Moonah Jaun. So that, in fact, little more would have been required, in 1820, to convince the resident of the just grounds the king had for his belief than the production and examination of Ghunna, the Dhobia; and yet, though she was forthcoming, and in the custody of a servant of the king, she was not produced.

13. This, it must be allowed, throws doubt upon the assertions of the late king and his minister; and it is not surprising that such neglect on their part, combined with the apparent improbability of a young man, in the flower of his youth, who might expect to have a numerous undoubted offspring, consenting to the affiliation of a child of spurious birth, to the prejudice of his legitimate children, should have induced Government to regard the whole affair as a plot of the minister, originating in his enmity to the Begum and the heir apparent, or connected with some ulterior design of his own. But if the assertions of the ex-minister, and, I may add, the general belief of the king's impotence, and of his having, from early youth, laboured under some physical defect likely to prevent his begetting offspring, are to be trusted, there was, at the time when Moonah Jaun was born, though his majesty was then only eighteen years old, sufficient reason to induce the Padshah Begum to enter into such a scheme as that imputed to her, and to make him accede to her plans.

14. Unless we could enter into a strict investigation of the case, and could rely upon the information regarding the birth of Moonah Jaun, which might, no doubt, be obtained from the women in the Begum's palace, it is unlikely, after so long a lapse of time, that we shall come to any conclusive decision on his claims to be regarded the king's son, and consequently his majesty's heir. One circumstance, most strikingly unfavourable to his pretensions, will be found in the facility with which the king himself has been induced to waive them in favour of a child undoubtedly of low and spurious origin; and we may almost conclude from thence that the king knows Moonah Jaun not to be his son. I might add, if it could be relied upon, the testimony of Mehndee Allee Khan, who has assured me that the king has to him disclaimed being the father of either of the boys, and has regretted the impossibility of his having any direct heirs to succeed to his possessions. However that may be, it is quite unnatural to suppose that his majesty, if he believed Moonah Jaun to be his son, would have disinherited him in favour of the child of another; or that if he had any prospect of a family, he would, at his present age, have wished to see any one declared heir apparent of his kingdom, except a son undoubtedly begotten of his own body.

15. It may be observed, also, that whatever prejudices Moatumud-ood-Dowlah, from and through whom all the evidence now submitted unfavourable to Moonah Jaun's claims has been derived, may heretofore have entertained against the Padshah Begum and the king, he is not likely, at the present moment, to be over-anxious to thwart her schemes in favour of Moonah Jaun, as it is generally understood that they are on good terms, and that she, if it were in her power, would promote his restoration to office; and the statements which he has furnished and caused to be produced concerning Moonah Jaun's mother, may safely be regarded as consistent with his belief of the real circumstances of that youth's birth, and we can find no one so well acquainted with the truth or falsehoods of the conflicting stories of the late king and his consort as the ex-minister himself.

16. The king has never expressed any wish to have this youth declared his heir, and

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Government may therefore be relieved from the difficulty of immediately deciding upon his claims in that capacity; but, connected as they are with those of Kywan Jah, the recognition of him as the king's son will amount to the same thing; and as I presume the explanation which I have already afforded of that youth's birth will compel Government to decide against his pretensions, and to make a formal declaration that he cannot be received as a son of the king, his Lordship may soon have to pronounce a definitive sentence on the claims of Moonah Jaun, or to call upon the king for an explanation of the suspicious circumstances that hang over his birth, and of the doubts that exist respecting his real mother.

17. The inquiries that I have made have necessarily been of a private nature, and it does not appear to me how they can be conducted in a more satisfactory manner during the lifetime of the king and the Padshah Begum. Most of the individuals best acquainted with the facts of Moonah Jaun's birth must be dependents of the Begum, residing in her palace; and it would be vain to expect that any of them, if summoned as witnesses in this case, would give their testimony uninfluenced by her wishes and plans in favour of that youth. Neither the Begum nor the king are aware, I believe, that I have been collecting information on this subject; but if his Lordship is of opinion that the inquiry should be prosecuted further by me, the only mode of proceeding will, I imagine, be to state to the king, that until the existing doubts respecting the birth of Moonah Jaun are cleared up, the British Government cannot acknowledge him as the king's son, when his majesty may offer any explanation he pleases of the circumstances of suspicion attaching to his birth.

18. It is not with Moonah Jaun as with Kywan Jah, that all the world are of one mind as to his low origin; public opinion is divided, and people only speak of his birth as doubtful; but as he has not been brought forward with the same high pretensions as Kywan Jah, and is not often at court, being confined very much to the Padshah Begum's palace, his situation has not yet excited public attention, nor have his claims been so much a subject of general speculation.

I have, &c.,
(signed) T. H. Maddock, Resident.

(No. 15.)

(No. 9.)—THE whole of these six depositions were taken by me on oath, and each deponent gave his evidence of his own free will in my presence.

Cawnpore, 14 December 1830.

(signed) H. S. Oldfield, Judge.

(No. 15.)

DEPOSITION upon Oath of *Purumresh Allee Khan*, commonly called *Chootee Khan*, whose place of residence is near the Durgah of Peer Jeisal Bazar of Gholam Hossein, 19 Jumadee Oosanee 1246 Hijeree.

A WASHERWOMAN, named Meena, a dependent of mine, who was in my service in the month of Zeeby (I do not remember the date), having washed the wearing apparel, brought it to my house. Beebee Boodee Khanum, commonly called Amanee Khamaun, servant of the Padshah Begum, who frequently visited me as a guest, came also that day as a guest to my house; and in my presence the aforesaid Beebee said to the above-named Meena, "You are pregnant, and live on bad terms with your husband; I will conduct you to the palace of the Padshah Begum, where a search is now making for a pregnant woman; if you bring forth a male child, great honour and advantage will result, as riches will be yours, and you will have a muhul, and establishment appropriated for your use, in which will be prepared all the ingredients of ease and pleasure, with gay and expensive clothing, choice food, and beautiful female attendants; all these things await you upon condition of your compliance with my proposition; and you must not forget me." Meena, who was dissatisfied with her husband, on hearing from the lips of the above-named Beebee such a proposition, was instantly willing to go; at length both of those women, namely, Beebee Amanee Khamun and Meena, seated themselves in one dooley, and were conveyed to the palace of Padshah Begum. The man who escorted them to the door, whose name is Mirza Imayet Allee, is now here. On the 4th of this month and year I saw that woman sick of a fever, and recognised her, and the fever gaining strength she died on the 7th of the month.

Question. How long was it after Meena's entrance into the palace, that news came of her having given birth to a son?—Answer. It was about 15 or 16 days after her entrance, that the information became general of the birth of her child.

14 December 1830.

(signed) . By Deponent.
H. S. Oldfield, Judge.

DEPOSITION upon Oath of *Mirza Imayet Allee*, of *Mohulla Chowdreeghur*, city of *Lucknow*, on the Date above named.

IN the month of Zeeby, I do not fully remember the year and date, I was seated at the door of *Purwuresh Allee Khan*, commonly called *Chotee Khan*, *Amanee Khanum*, a servant of the Padshah Begum, who was in the habit of occasionally visiting the aforesaid khan, happened also that day to come, and said to me "I am taking with me a woman to the gate of the Padshah Begum's palace; if you will escort me to the door, I shall be greatly pleased."

pleased." I asked "Who is the woman?" she said "Meena, the wife of Peera, a washerman." As this woman also washed the clothes of my house, I was acquainted with her state, and again put the question, "Meena is pregnant; why are you going to take her into the palace?" Amanee Khanum answered that "there was a search for a woman in her condition, therefore I am taking her." I accordingly escorted Amanee to the gate of the palace, from whence I returned. Both she and Meena sat in one dooley; although Amanee Khanum promised much, after entering the palace she gave nothing.

Question. How long was it after the entrance of Meena into the palace that news arrived of her having given birth to a son?—*Answer.* About 15 or 16 days after.

14 December 1830.

(Signature of Deponent.)
(signed) H. S. Oldfield, Judge.

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Appendix (A.)
(No. 15.)

DEPOSITION upon Oath of *Sheikh Zeoolah*, Servant of *Amanee Khanum*, of *Chowdrieghur*, Lucknow, on the above Date.

I WAS the servant of Amanee Khanum, who took with her to the palace of the Padshah Begum a pregnant washerwoman, named Meena, from the house of Punowresh Alee Khan, commonly called Chotee Ram, whose servant the washerwoman was. Being Amanee Khanum's servant, she said to me "Take me to the gate of the palace, and from thence return;" I accordingly escorted her to the gate as desired.

Question. After Meena had entered the palace, how long was it before news of her delivery was received?—*Answer.* About 15 or 16 days.

14 December 1830.

(Signature of Deponent.)
(signed) H. S. Oldfield, Judge.

DEPOSITION upon Oath of *Mehlaub*, Midwife of the old *Dowlet Khaneh*, taken on the above Date.

THE truth is this, the Padshah Begum called me, and for nine months placed me in the palace, saying to me, that Sookhchein Khowass was pregnant; but although for nine months I most particularly looked for signs of pregnancy, I found none. I even slept occasionally upon one bed with the Khowass above named, and placed my hand upon her belly and well ascertained the fact that she never was pregnant. At the expiration of nine months, the Padshah Begum was displeased with me and said, "I will disgrace and be the death of you, because you cannot produce a child." I replied, that her highness was supreme, and might do as seemed good, either in effecting my death or disgrace; but if no child were in the womb, how could I produce one? On this she was the more displeased, and said, "Tell her to go and stay in the Hubshee's apartments," and I in consequence remained for seven days in the house inhabited by the Abyssinians. One day Beebee Fuz-ool-Nissa Moghulanee, came to me when four ghurries of the night had passed, and said "The pains had come upon Sookhchein; come, fortune has been your friend." I went to Sookhchein, and saw that she had no signs whatever of pregnancy; I was alarmed and in fear of my life; I sat down in silence. At this time Beebee Moghulanee said to me, "You are in the habit of smoking the hookah; go, and having smoked, return;" I went to smoke, and after a ghurrie had expired, suddenly the report was spread that a son was born; I remained in astonishment, thinking how strange this was, and quickly returned. They then brought to me a male infant, and I cut its navel string, and I received a present of a pair of topaz bracelets and 1,000 rupees. I said, "Be quick in bringing cloths for binding the belly of the mother." They said, "That was the custom of the poor, but in the houses of nobles it was not usual to bind the belly." I again said, "Bring oil, &c., that I may perform the usual services to the mother of the infant." They said, "This was quite unnecessary." In short, there never was any sign of pregnancy in Sookhchein, who was said to have given birth to a son. It was my lot to obtain a pair of ornamented kurrahs and 1,000 rupees, of which I got 800, and Beebee Moghulanee herself took from me 200 rupees and distributed them among the amlah of the Deorhee, and when I was summoned before the late king and asked the particulars of the affair, I related, as I have now done, all that passed.

Question. What was the year, month, and date of the birth?—*Answer.* I do not fully remember; but this I do recollect, that it was the month of Zehij, when the distribution of the flesh of ortier goats took place.

When the child was born, did you at that time ever hear who was the mother?—After eight or nine days, Feiz-ool-Nissa Moghulanee mentioned that the people said a child was born from the wife of a washerman. I replied, "I certainly cut its navel string; but I know nothing of its birth." Beebee Moghulanee, on hearing this, was angry, and said, "Get away, you bitch, say not so; but say that you saw the child born from the womb of Sookhchein." I replied, "How shall I utter a falsehood?"

14 December 1830.

(Signed by Deponent.)
(signed) H. S. Oldfield, Judge.

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

DEPOSITION upon Oath of *Dilamur Khan*, of *Wuzeer Gunge*, *Lucknow*, an old Servant of the late King, same Date as the above.

Appendix (A.)
(No. 15.)

I WAS an old servant of the late king. When Meena, the washerwoman, was taken a prisoner before the late king; she was made over to me, and it was ordered that I should guard her with all care. I asked the woman why she was apprehended? She answered, "I am a washerwoman, the wife of Peera, the servant of Moonshee Bakur. I was pregnant, and Amanee Khanum, a servant of the Padshah Begum, took me deceitfully, and with hopes of gain, into the palace of the Padshah Begum; and, after giving birth to my child in that state, and without medicine and the necessary restoratives, I was taken by one Potee Khanum Moghulanee to her house, and as I was very ill indeed, my condition excited pity, and medicine and cordials were given. As the Padshah Begum was again in search for me, I was given over by the aforesaid Moghulanee to the charge of a man named Abasbeg; and when the late king made inquiry after me, Abasbeg conveyed me to Nawaub Moatumud-ood-Dowlah; from thence I was taken to the palace. My history is such as I have stated it." The above-named woman was for some time a prisoner in the guard of sepoys with me. After this, it was ordered that she should be sent to the Nawaub before-mentioned; and, agreeably to the king's order, I had her conveyed there, and now, for some time, I have been residing here; and on the 7th, on Thursday, of this month, by orders of the Nawaub, I attended and saw that the woman Meena was dead; I recognized her well that it was the same washerwoman, Meena by name, who for some time remained under my charge, and from whom I learned the story above related.

Question. How many days was it previous to the imprisonment of Meena that you heard of the birth of a son in the palace?—*Answer.* My papers and accounts which were written at that time have been sequestered, together with my property, by the government of Oude, and for this reason I cannot state the dates; but it was, more or less, about one month after the news of the child's birth within the palace, that the woman was put into confinement.

(signed) *Dilamur Khan.*

14 December 1830.

H. S. Oldfield, Judge.

DEPOSITION upon oath of *Nobatee Khanum Moghulanee*, an old Servant in the Palace of the Padshah Begum, 27 Jumadee-oo-sanee; 1246 Hijeree.

I KNOW well and fully that Moona Jan (the young prince so called), was not born from the womb of Sookhchein; the Kuneiz Sookhchein was at all times with me, and was never pregnant, neither was there ever a child produced from her womb. It pleased the Padshah Begum to give publicity to the story that a son had been born to Sookhchein, and lacs of rupees were expended in her strenuous endeavours to establish the belief; but it was no secret to all the women of the palace that the child was from the womb of a washerwoman, and not from that of Sookhchein.

Question. What midwife was called to deliver the woman?—*Answer.* A daee, named Mehtaub, was called as the midwife.

After the story of the delivery of Sookhchein, were you in the habit of seeing and visiting her as formerly?—The intercourse with all the palace was kept up by her as formerly; as she had given birth to no child, where was the inconvenience or excuse to prevent the usual intercourse?

On what month and day was it made known that a child was born?—It was the month of Zeebij, but I forget the day and year; but it was about 11 or 12 years ago.

(signed) By *Nobatee.*

14 December 1830.

H. S. Oldfield, Judge.

(A true Translation.)

(signed) *James Paton,*
First Assistant to the Resident.

(No. 16.)

(No. 10.)—TRANSLATION of a Persian Statement received from *Moatumud-oo-Dowlah.*

WHEN her highness the Begum represented to the late king that the slave girl, Sookhchein, was in a state of pregnancy, his majesty was displeased, and asked, "Why, without my knowledge and permission, did you place that girl in the service of Mirza Nusseer-oo-deen-Hyder; as it was the desire of Lord Hastings that Mirza Nusseer-oo-deen should be united in marriage to the daughter of some noble family, that the first-born child should be of noble birth on both sides."

After anticipating the birth for the usual period of nine months, there were yet no signs of delivery. The king, observing the artifices of the Begum, asked an explanation of this singular delay; the Begum sent a message to say, that the child was ready for the birth, but that devils or evil spirits would not permit it to be brought forth. A yet longer period transpired; the king's suspicions were confirmed, and he gave repeated orders that when the period of child-birth drew near, the eldest sister, the aunts, and the wives of his relations, should be called, that the child might be born in the presence of them all. Thus did nearly

nearly 25 months expire, greatly exciting the wonder of the king, who became more and more eagerly bent upon investigating the matter; when lo! he one day learned from a newspaper that search was making in the Begum's palace for a pregnant woman, and that a woman with child, the wife of a washerman in the service of Mahomed Bakur, was missing. No sooner did the king learn this, than he repeatedly sent the same messenger to the Begum, saying, that when the female slave, Sookhchein, was about to bring forth, she, the Begum, as was customary, should send for the aunts, the eldest sister, and the wives of the royal relatives, that before them all the child might be born. Many days had not passed, when suddenly came the news that an infant had been born; and following this intelligence came the prince himself (the present king), deceitfully to offer nuzzurs, and to solicit that a salute of artillery should be fired, as was usual on the birth of children to sultans and viziers. The king was wroth, and instead of accepting his nuzzurs, did not even admit him to pay his respects; and, as regarded the salute, he replied, that were the child a grandson of his, assuredly an order should be given for a salute of artillery. The prince returned without having accomplished the object of his visit.

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As the Begum, notwithstanding the repeated injunctions of the king, had not summoned any of the sisters or relatives of his majesty, he was yet more determined upon prosecuting the inquiry, and to this end he called the eunuch Nusheem, who was nazir over the palace of the Begum, and declared that he had no reliance upon the birth of the child, which never was the offspring of Nusseer-oo-deen, but had sprung from other loins, and had been brought in from without. The midwife was summoned. She was brought by the men who accompanied Mardeen Sing. The king personally interrogated her, and she answered that falsehood was everywhere brought forward, but that before God and the Sultan the truth was this, "The child was not born before me, but there was stipulated as my share a pair of valuable golden ornaments and as much cash."—[P. S. by the writer of this paper, 1,000 rupees or 500 rupees, the exact sum not remembered.]—"The child was brought to me to cut its navel string; I cut it." The king then asked of her whether Sookhchein, to whom it was asserted a child had been born, had ever exhibited signs of child-birth or pregnancy. The reply was that the slave girl had shown no such signs of child-birth.

On the completion of the investigation, the king was highly displeased and reported the circumstance to the resident, Mr. Monckton.

After some time, the prince (Shahibzudeh) with the Mohsum-oo-Dowlah, bahadoor, took the child in the arms of some woman into the presence of the king, who, in anger, sent it from before him without seeing its face, and, through the Nawaub Moatumud-oo-Dowlah, sent information to the resident, Mr. Monckton. The resident said that he had heard the child had been taken into his majesty's arms. When the king was informed of this observation by the resident, his mind was troubled, and at several personal interviews with the resident, he stated that the child was no grandson of his; that had it been so, he would have accepted of the prince's nuzzurs, and would have ordered that a salute of artillery should be fired. The king added, that some one must have given an erroneous statement to the resident, as the truth now stood as it had been formerly stated to the resident.

At a later period, in the time of Colonel Raper, and Mr. Ricketts, his majesty frequently said to them, "Let it be fully understood by British officers that this child sprung not from the loins of Mirza Nusseer-oo-deen Hyder, lest it should so happen that the house of Aboool Nursoor Khan Suftur Jung should pass into other hands."

Information was a second time circulated by the Begum that the slave girl Sookhchein was pregnant, and this statement the Begum had conveyed to the king, who sent three surgeons, one his majesty's surgeon, the second the residency surgeon, and the third a stranger just arrived at Lucknow. These were directed to ascertain the truth of the statement, but the Begum interfered to hinder the investigation and prevent inquiry by the surgeons. This report of the girl's pregnancy continued for four years, and at the expiration of that period, it was unknown what had become of the child.

During the reign of the late king there were no papers from the residency unanswered, and in this case where the king was beyond measure anxious that his kingdom might not pass into other hands, and had given such persevering attention to investigate the truth, it cannot be credited that he should have neglected to forward a reply to that paper. The Amlah may either from the facility of denial have used artifice regarding it, or they may have not lodged it in the dufter.

In short, whilst the king lived, this was a subject of anxiety and grief to him, and he may be said to have carried its impression with him to the grave.

(A true Translation.)

(signed) James Paton, Assistant Resident.

TRANSLATED DEPOSITION of Inotai Khan, received from Mirza Fukhee Khan, Son of Mirza Bauker Khan, in whose compound the Dhobie resided.

THE washerwoman, previously to her absconding, had cherished an affection for a sowar in the Rissala of Mendoo Khan, and sought an opportunity of flight, that she might go to his house and there remain concealed. One day, with this purpose in her mind, she came to my house about noon, and afterwards went to the house of the sowar and there remained in concealment. She was then seven months gone with child. When Moatumud-oo-Dowlah (the then minister) heard of the flight, he put me in confinement, suspecting that because

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she had been in my house, I had caused her concealment, or had sold her. I was a prisoner for seven or eight days, in Noor Bux, detained in the hope that I should reveal having sold the washerwoman within the palace of the Padshah Begum; but, being innocent, I denied; nor had I any knowledge of such a transaction. I was, after this, sent to the opposite side of the river, and confined there with severity; when, about two months after the event, (for it was known throughout the place that the washerwoman was missing, and that I was unjustly confined,) a washerwoman, named Shukeeah, who was then, as now, a servant in the muhul of Moatumud-oo-Dowlah, and who knew that the woman was in the house of the sowar, said to Moatumud-oo-Dowlah, that I was in vain imprisoned, because the missing woman was then in the sowar's house. No sooner did Moatumud-oo-Dowlah hear this than he sent his men, who brought forth the woman from the sowar's house, and put her into his own muhal. The sowar he dismissed from the Rissaleh. After a pregnancy of nine months, the washerwoman gave birth to a daughter, in the house of Moatumud-oo-Dowlah. The daughter died, and Moatumud-oo-Dowlah gave employment to the woman, amongst the servants of his own muhul, as a dresser; and there, to this day, she remains.

The deponent further stated that after three years he was released from prison, and that Azim-oollah-Khan, the darogha of Moatumud-oo-Dowlah, summoned him to his presence, and gave him 100 rupees for exercising his calling, in preparing clothes; fixing 30 rupees as his monthly pay; enjoining him carefully to abstain from going to any other durbar but his (the darogha's) own; taking an agreement in writing, that he (the deponent) would never disclose his having been confined on account of the washerwoman; because, if he did, he would be confined with severity.

The deponent again stated that, six months after his enlargement, he met the sowar, and learned from him the strange circumstances of his discharge, and that the woman had been taken from his house. Deponent did not remember the sowar's name, but he lived in the Shekkumdurraza.

(signed) *James Paton*, Assistant Resident.

TRANSLATED STATEMENT of *Mahomed Ali Khan*.

THE real particulars of Mirza Fureed-oon-Bukht's birth are these: He was born from the womb of Sherfoo, who was given by the late king to his present majesty, and who to this day is alive and well, and in all cases stands forward, saying, "If any one shall ask, why did not the Begum celebrate the birth by rejoicings? The first answer is this; when she was pregnant, the late king was in possession of his reason, and on hearing of the pregnancy was greatly pleased, and said that he himself would celebrate the birth by rejoicings, but as the period of pregnancy was unusually prolonged, there arose in the meantime a dissension between the late king and the Begum. His majesty moreover resigned the reigns of authority into the hands of her enemy, who possessed entire influence over his mind to the exclusion of herself and son and to such a state of disorder and ruin did her establishments arrive, that the carriage-cattle strayed unheeded in the Khass bazar, and her other establishments were in no better state. The fact is known to all, both high and low. She was likewise without any influence in the kitchen, and was involved in cares and distress.

The late king being thus influenced by the machinations of others, was in heaviness of heart because of the Begum and his son. Such being the case, who then remained to celebrate the birthday, and supply the lacs of rupees requisite for such an occasion?

2. When the child was born, the present king was betrothed to the daughter of Suliman Shekoe. Interested people represented to his majesty that if there were rejoicings, it would give offence to Mirza Suliman Shekoe, who would hesitate about giving his daughter. For these reasons the rejoicings were put off.

If any one shall sneer and ask, how such an impossibility could be brought about as the birth of a child after such a lapse of time, the reply is this, that such has frequently been the case. Children have been born after 14 or 15 months pregnancy, and of this his present Majesty is an instance, for he was born after 13 months, and the Nawaub Saadut Ali Khan did not celebrate his birth because of grief on account of the Begum; besides which, it is common with some females, in their first conception, (here the original Persian is indistinct, but from the context the meaning appears to be) to show signs of pregnancy for two or three months before they are really in that state. Thus, a woman who feels extremely anxious to bear a child, exhibits all the appearance of pregnancy, and at that time the king was devotedly attached to the woman in question, she only being in attendance upon him until her delivery, when another was called in; he was frequently, indeed always entirely captivated with her, and in their intercourse the woman may have conceived. The people, in calculating the time, dated it from the first intimation of pregnancy. The Begum after the birth bestowed honours upon the mother by order of the king, giving her a silver bed, and the privilege of sitting in her presence; the late king, though not the master of his own actions, took the child in his arms, and bestowed upon it some gold mohurs, and the lady (supposed to mean Lady Amherst) who visited the palace, also took the child in her arms; but accounts differ regarding the number of gold mohurs, some say that 500 gold mohurs, and some say that 200 were given to the nurse; such were the reports in the palace; but secret transactions within the female apartments are unknown when the king sent for the child, and when the lady visited the palace, every thing that occurred passed within the purdahs, and cannot there be ascertained by those outside.

(signed) *Jas. Paton*, Assistant Resident.
Mohummud

Mohummud Alee has further informed me that on one occasion, he heard of his majesty's having, in the female apartments, given the child a hykul, or mala, but that no khillant or anything of the kind was ever bestowed upon him publicly. He has heard the king express his belief that the child was not his grandson, and the king, on hearing reports of the prince's, the present king's imbecility or impotence, has been heard to say, that on that account he wished he were dead. The child Munnoo Jaun, or Fureed-oon-Bukht, was instructed, when the king passed along the side of the river under the house occupied by the Padshah Begum, to call out "Dada Jaun," dear grandpapa, at which the king was very angry, and sent to inform the Begum that if the practice were continued, he should remove her from the house, or pull it down.

Mohummud Alee states, that the late king, for some years before his death, was so much under the influence of the minister, that he scarcely said or did anything but according to his dictation; and he cannot therefore assert, that the king's conduct towards the child, latterly, proceeded from a conviction of his spurious birth, or was induced by the advice of the minister, though he seems to conclude that the former was the case.

(signed) T. H. Maddock, Resident.

(True copies.)

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 17.)

To George Swinton, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort William.

(No. 17.)

Sir,

I AM directed to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Vice President in Council, the accompanying copies of a despatch from Mr. Maddock, dated the 1st January last, and of a minute by the Right Honourable the Governor-general on the subject, of this date.

Shimla, 25 August 1831.

(signed) H. T. Prinsep,
Secretary to Governor-general.

(True copy.)

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 18.)

• MINUTE by the Governor-General.

(No. 18.)

Political Department, Shimla, 25 August 1831.

THE question of the legitimate heir to the Musnud of Oudh is one of much difficulty, and, being unable to come to any conclusion satisfactory to my own mind, I should feel obliged by the communication of the sentiments of the Vice President in Council upon it.

There is, I believe, little doubt that neither of the boys, Kywan Jah or Fureed-oon-Bukht, born of different mothers, are the sons of the king, and it is not very probable, from his debauched habits and debilitated constitution, that his majesty will have any offspring.

Upon my approach to Lucknow the king proposed to send Kywan Jah to meet me, a ceremony observed on former visits of Governors-general to Lucknow; but I evaded the recognition that this act might imply, by requesting that the same forms, including the deputation of the same individuals who happened to be on good terms with the king, should be followed as upon Lord Amherst's visit. The king complied with this request.

In this state of doubt, it would be very convenient to suspend any decision till time might, perhaps, develop the truth; but in the event of the sudden death of the king, much embarrassment might arise if either the succession was delayed or suspended by the interposition of the British resident, or if an heir ascended the Musnud who should be acknowledged by the British Government. The point for decision is the lesser evil of the two.

In respect to the question of legitimacy, that of the younger boy seems to be supported by the better proofs. The king, upon all occasions, appeared studiously to put forward the elder, though I did not learn that his majesty had any real interest or feeling in his behalf. The influence of the mother at the time led to the declaration of Kywan Jah as his heir; and he probably now feels unwilling to retract a declaration so publicly made.

(signed) W. C. Bentinck.

(True copy.)

(signed) H. T. Prinsep, Secretary to Governor-general.

(True copy.)

(signed) G. Swinton, Chief Secretary to Government.

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(No. 19.)

Appendix (A.)
(No. 19.)

NOTE by the Chief Secretary.

16 September 1831.

THE Governor-general having requested the sentiments of the Vice President in Council on the subject discussed in his minute of the 25th ult., I have put up the following papers for eventual reference.

Mr. Maddock's despatch* of the 13th November 1830, on the birth and parentage of the eldest son, Kywaun Jah.—*N. B.* This son made his appearance at court some years after the younger boy, Fureed-oon-Bukht.

In answer to Mr. Maddock's despatch† about Kywaun Jah, the secretary to the Governor-general, on the 24th November 1830, informed the resident that, as his lordship would soon have an opportunity of personally conferring with him, he deemed it unnecessary to state any opinion on the question mooted.

On the 1st January, 1831 Mr. Maddock submitted his report on the case of the younger son, Fureed-oon-Bukht. This despatch is the one which the Governor-general has now taken up in his minute.

In elucidation of this mysterious affair I have put up a note‡, containing a summary of former correspondence submitted by me in January 1828.

I have also added the correspondence in 1827–28§, when rules were laid down for the guidance of the resident as to his treatment of the two boys. It was stated on that occasion, that, under the extraordinary circumstances of the case, the Governor-general in Council withheld his judgment as to the part which the British Government might take in the settling of the succession at the king's death, until he should have sufficient proof of whatever may be necessary to guide our decision. [Shall we ever have this?].

In the early part of 1830, also, there was some correspondence about the king's sons.—*Vide* the resident's despatch, recorded as below¶.

(True copy.)

(signed). G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 20.)

MINUTE by the Vice President.

Political Department, 24 September 1831.

(No. 20.) * THE Right Honourable the Governor-general having expressed a desire to receive a communication of our sentiments, on the question of the prospective succession to the dominion of Oude, I proceed to submit what occurs to me on the subject.

There is sufficient cause for the presumption that both of the boys who pass as the sons of the king are spurious; but, nevertheless, they are put forward and treated by the king as if they were his children.

Under these circumstances there appear to me to be two distinct courses, which the British Government is at liberty to pursue, without there being any insurmountable objection to either.

One is to avoid the anticipation of any difficulty until it shall arise; and the other to settle all doubt at once, as far as it can be settled, and to come now to a fixed determination as to the succession.

With regard to the first of these notions it may be remarked, that we are no otherwise concerned in the succession than in as far as there may be a probability of a dispute hereafter, which it may cost us trouble to arbitrate and terminate. If the king chooses to acknowledge as his children the son of a washerman and the son of an elephant driver, or any other low person, it is, so far, a matter of indifference to us; either would, probably, make as good a king as the heir male of his majesty lawfully begotten. The blood of the ancestor of the family is not supposed to have descended in purity to the present generation. Report assigns to the king himself a birth not more respectable than that of either of his ostensible sons.* But as, if these boys are spurious, another person would be the legitimate successor and might urge a claim, on which we should have to decide, we may be at some time involved in embarrassment, and are therefore interested.

Nevertheless, as long as the king acknowledges the boys as his own, and no one objects to their being so considered; as long as the collateral heirs, whose rights are thus set aside, submit

* List of packet No. 86, of Letter to Court of Directors, No. 3, dated 4th March 1830.

† List of packet No. 86, of Letter to Court of Directors, No. 3, dated 4th March 1830.

‡ Pol. Cons. 11th Jan. 1828, No. 23. List of packet No. 5, of Letter to Court of Directors, 22d Feb. 1828.

§ Resident's despatches, dated 1st and 3d December 1827, and answer 11th Jan. 1828, recorded on the Political Cons., dated 11th Jan. 1828. Nos. 20, 21, 22, and 24, list of packet No. 2, 3, and 4 of Letter to Court of Directors, dated 22 Feb. 1828.

¶ Cons. 16th April 1830, Nos. 40 and 41. Note transmitted as Enclosure, No. 8, in letter to the Honourable Court, No. 17 of 1831.

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submit to the injustice without appeal or complaint, it does not seem to be absolutely incumbent on us to agitate the question.

We may avoid any formal acknowledgment of either of the boys as successor to the throne; we may refuse to make such acknowledgment, on the ground of the suspicions which attach to their birth; we may in other respects treat them as the king's sons, for which they ostensibly pass; we may let the one whom the king calls the eldest, succeed on his majesty's demise, if his title be undisputed either by his nominal brother or any other claimants; and, on the other hand, if a claim be then advanced, we may inquire into it, and decide as we best can on the evidence produced.

The objection to this mode of proceeding seems to be, that as, very probably, a claim might be advanced on the death of the present king, and not before that event, or perhaps not until after the succession of the ostensible heir, we should, in the former case, have to delay the succession for the uncertain result of an investigation; and in the latter, might have to undo a succession which we had previously sanctioned. Either of these predicaments would undoubtedly be very inconvenient.

On the other hand, this course would have some advantages. Time, which does much in all things, might either remove all cause of difficulty, or might disclose information which would banish all doubt, and enable our Government to act with certainty, while, in the meantime, we should avoid the offensiveness of an investigation necessarily painful to the king's feelings.

It is not impossible that the king may at present hold forth these boys as his children from dread that the presumptive heir might work against his life, if he were supposed to be childless; and that he may be as ready to disavow those boys hereafter, when they grow up to become objects of similar fears. The late Nizam of Hyderabad would never name his successor, lest his own death should be accelerated by the succession's being no longer doubtful, although the heir must have been one of his own sons.

The other course that might be pursued, is to proceed to the investigation at once. We might call on the king, in the first instance, to declare whether these children are his own or not. His disavowal of them would, I presume, be sufficient to settle the question, after what is already known. But his avowed acknowledgment of them would render further investigation necessary; we should then have to decide for or against the legitimacy of the boys, on the best evidence procurable. The British Government would make up its mind as to the acknowledgment or otherwise of either of the boys in question, and would be prepared to act accordingly on the demise of the king.

That would be an undoubted advantage, and I should be disposed to recommend this plan, if it were certain that the result of an investigation would place the question beyond doubt, or be so final as to relieve the Government from the necessity of further inquiry, if further information should at any time be forthcoming; but as I do not think that it would have either of these effects, I am rather inclined to the course first suggested, which would keep the question entirely open for future decision. The king being disposed to assert that the boys are his children, the evidence which might prove the contrary, obtainable only in the recesses of his palace, could hardly be obtained during his life; but on his death, or at some subsequent period, the British Government, after deciding in favour of the boys on insufficient or false evidence, might be assailed with a mass of irresistible testimonies in proof of their spuriousness, and be compelled, in justice, to revise its decision. If certainty is not to be gained by pushing an investigation now, little or nothing will be gained by it, and there is no reason to expect that certainty would be the consequence.

Another course would be, without pressing a formal investigation, which would probably be fruitless, to call on the king to avow or disavow the relation of these boys as his children, leaving it, in the event of his affirmation, to time and the vigilance of those interested to produce proofs of the reverse, and without such proofs, taking his avowal as conclusive for the time.

But this would not be conclusive in reality. The king's avowal would carry little weight with it. He must be supposed, from his conduct, to wish that the boys should be regarded as his children, and would probably, therefore, be ready to declare them so if urged on the subject; thereby committing himself to a false statement, from which afterwards he might be ashamed to recede, even if so inclined, and thus rendering the detection of the truth more difficult than before.

On the whole, I should be disposed to let the matter rest at present; taking advantage of the resources which time may offer for the elucidation of the question; holding ourselves to be no otherwise concerned than as judges in the case of a disputed succession; keeping ourselves ready to attend to any claim, and to enter on an investigation on the invitation of any party entitled by his interest in the issue to require it.

In the event of there being, at the time of the king's death, the same presumption that now exists, of the spuriousness of the boys who pass as his sons, the Oude government might, on that event, be put in commission, without elevating either of them to the throne, until their respective rights, and those of other claimants, could be proved or disproved, by the strictest investigation that could be instituted on the best evidence then procurable.

(signed) C. T. Metcalfe.

(True copy)

(signed)

G. Swinton,

Chief Secretary to Government.

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Appendix (A.)
(No. 21.)

(No. 21.)

MINUTE by Mr. *Blunt*.

Political Department, 28 September 1831.

I HAVE perused the minute of the Honourable the Vice President on the subject of the prospective succession to the dominions of Oude.

In the present state of that territory I should apprehend that serious inconvenience might result, if, at the time of the demise of the present ruler, whenever that event may happen, any uncertainty should exist as to the succession.

If the boys named Kywaun Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht are acknowledged by the king to be his sons, I should not think it necessary, at present, to agitate the question of their legitimacy.

The king might, I think, be required to declare in writing whether either or both of the boys in question are his sons, and if so, which of the two is the eldest; and until evidence shall be adduced to disprove such declaration, or some better claim to succession be advanced, the declaration of the king might be admitted, provisionally, to fix the succession.

The accession of either of the reputed sons of his majesty would not, of course, preclude the consideration of any other claims; and although some inconvenience might certainly attend the necessity of any subsequent change, yet this course would, I think, be preferable to that of putting the Government in commission pending an investigation which might not ultimately prove satisfactory or conclusive, as to the right of succession; and this course would, I think, best enable the Government to provide against any interruption to the tranquillity of the country or any local disturbance which might arise from a disputed succession, and in which the troops might possibly be induced to take a part if that succession were long to remain undetermined.

Although the declaration of the king might render it proper that the youths in question should be treated as his sons, it might not be necessary, so long as their legitimacy remains questionable, to recognize either as the presumptive heir to the throne.

(True copy.) (signed) *W. Blunt*,

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 22.)

(Secret Department.)—To *George Swinton, Esq.*, Chief Secretary to the Government,
Fort William.

Sir,

(No. 22.)

WITH reference to your letter dated the 30th September last, forwarding copies of Minutes by the Honourable the Vice President and the junior Member of Council, relating to the prospective successor to the throne of Oude, I am directed to transmit to you, for the information of the Vice President in Council, copy of the instructions issued on this date, under the authority of the Right honourable the Governor-general to the Resident at Lucknow.

Camp, Sujwanna, 25 November 1831.

(signed) *H. T. Prinsep*,
Secretary to Governor-general.

(True copy.)

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 23.)

(Secret Department.)—To Major *J. Low*, Resident at Lucknow.

Sir,

(No. 23.)

IN continuation of my despatch to your address, dated 25th August last, I am directed by the Right honourable the Governor-general to furnish you with instructions on the following of the reserved points, upon which orders were promised in that despatch; viz. the prospective succession to the throne of Oude, with reference to the claims of the two boys brought forward by the king as his sons.

2. You have already been warned that it was the Governor-general's wish that you should avoid compromising the government by any act that could be construed into any recognition of the title of either of the boys to be treated or considered as heir apparent of the musnud of Oude. The steps taken during the lifetime of the late king to set at rest the questions raised in respect to the spuriousness of the birth of the younger, Fureed-oon-Bukht, the result of which might have been considered to give a colour to his pretensions to this character, seem to his Lordship to be cancelled by his present majesty's act, in now bringing forward an elder boy to supersede him. This fact, added to the circumstances developed by the inquiries made, and coupled, as it is, with the ascertained spuriousness of the elder boy so preferred, leaves in his Lordship's mind little doubt that neither boy is the legitimate son of the reigning king. But the ruler of Oude is yet in the prime of life, and it would be

highly

highly injudicious that any of his uncles should conceive expectations, or be encouraged to look to the possibility of their claims being preferred.

3. Although, therefore, fully sensible of the inconvenience that must result from leaving so important a question as the succession to this musnud in suspense, the Governor-general, nevertheless, with reference to the youth of the king, and to the improbability that any sudden exigency should arise to require a prompt determination on the spot, and preclude a previous reference to the government orders, desires that for the present no further steps shall be taken to bring this matter to issue. The instructions, therefore, by which you will be guided in this point are those heretofore furnished; viz. to use extreme caution in avoiding to commit yourself or the government by any act liable to the construction of being a recognition of the claim of any one; but neither to his majesty himself, nor to the minister, will it be necessary to make any communication or allusion to the subject.

The other questions reserved in your instructions are still under the Governor-general's consideration.

Camp, Sujwana, 25 November 1831.

(signed) *H. T. Prinsep,*
Secy to Govt-genl.

(True copy.)

(signed) *G. Swinton,*
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 24.)

ABSTRACT.

REPORTS a conversation which the resident had with the minister, in which the latter stated that the king had quarrelled with Mulkye Zumania, and had disowned Kywan Jah as being his son and successor; states that the resident made the sentiments of the Governor-general on this subject known to the minister. Relates further that the king, and the minister also, have doubts of Fureed-oon-Bukht being his majesty's son; mentions the reasons for these doubts; relates the resident's remarks on hearing of those doubts in his majesty's mind; mentions the sickness of the minister, which has prevented any further conversation about Fureed-oon-Bukht; notices a remark of the minister's, which seems to indicate that he cannot in reality have any doubts of the spurious birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht.

(signed) *J. Low,* Resident.

(No. 25.)

(Duplicate).

To *H. T. Prinsep, Esq.,* Secretary to the Governor-general, Head Quarters.

Sir,

WITH reference to the instructions contained in your letter in the secret department, dated the 26th November last, I think it right to put on record an unexpected and remarkable conversation which the Nawaub Moontuzim-ood-Dowlah held with me on the evening of the 17th instant.

2. The minister was describing to me some of those habits of extravagance in which the king unfortunately indulges too much, and which led me to remark, that as Mulkye Zumania was lately said to be much out of favour, I hoped that his majesty's lavish gifts to her and her household would henceforward be much less frequent than they had been heretofore.

3. The Nawaub laughed, and immediately said, "You need no longer fear extravagance in that quarter. The king has permanently quarrelled with her; and has promised me to discard entirely from his mind the preposterous notion of calling Kywan Jah the heir apparent." I immediately took the opportunity of saying that I was very glad to hear it, and of telling the Nawaub plainly, that though the Governor-general, from motives of delicacy, and hoping that the king would yet have sons of his own, had not thought it necessary to order me to speak to the king on the subject, yet, that his lordship was so fully aware of what all the community here knows, namely, that Kywan Jah is not the son of the king, that the British Government would never recognize that boy as the heir to the throne of Oude; and I added the following observation: "Nothing but the king's good sense and your own, in not bringing forward that boy in any way since my arrival here, has prevented my communicating to you until now the Governor-general's sentiments on the subject." The minister replied, "The Lord Saheb is perfectly right; every one knows that Kywan Jah is the son of a Mahout. The king became infatuated (dewana) about that woman (Mulkye Zumania), and, to please her, was foolish enough to call her son the heir apparent, though he was born before his mother ever came into the palace."

4. The above remarks led to some further conversation respecting Fureed-oon-Bukht, the younger boy, in which the Nawaub expressed his own individual doubts about him also. I said that similar doubts in this matter were very generally entertained at this place, and in the mind of the Governor-general also. This led the Nawaub to repeat to me more than once, that they were merely doubts in his mind, but shortly afterwards he admitted, that

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the king also had some doubts, and said, that one day lately his majesty mentioned to him (the minister,) that there was something peculiar both in the size of the fingers and in the shape of the ears of his majesty's ancestors, and of himself, and that Fureed-oon-Bukht had not either of those distinguishing marks. I replied, that since the king had doubts, and most people had more than doubts, it seemed to me folly in any one to talk of the boy as being the king's son. The Nawaub neither assented to, nor dissented from that remark on my part.

5. The minister ended this conversation by saying that he would let me know more about Fureed-oon-Bukht as soon as he should himself be better informed upon the subject, and said that this would probably be the case the next time he saw me. In consequence of that intimation, I have delayed since the 17th instant conveying to the Governor-general the information contained in this letter; but I regret to say that the minister is now confined to his bed-room, and suffering severely from an attack of fever, and as there is consequently no hope of seeing him for several days more, I have thought it best to report the conversation of the minister such as it was, along with my own remarks, called for by the unlooked-for circumstance of the Nawaub having volunteered to discuss the subject of the pretensions of either of the two boys.

6. On looking over what I have written, I see that I have omitted one remark of the minister's, which is deserving of notice, inasmuch as it implied that he can scarcely in reality have those doubts that he expressed about the younger boy; he made the remark alluded to, when he was in the act of walking out of my room in taking leave of me. It was as follows: "I hope," said the Nawaub, "that the king, who has lately married again, may yet have children," (Sahebe-ontad); I had only time to say, in reply, that I sincerely hoped he might.

I have, &c.

Lucknow Residency, 25 January 1832.

(signed) J. Low, Resident.

(No. 26.)

(No. 26.)

MINUTE of a Communication made personally by the Nawaub *Montuzim-ood-Dowlah*, on the Evening of the 2d February 1832, to the Resident at Lucknow, *Jajoodeen Hoosain Khan*, (a confidential officer of the King of Oude) having also been present.

THE minister commenced by adverting to the conference which he held with me on the 17th of the last month, stating, that what he then said to me, respecting Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, was not by the express desire of the king, but that what he had now to say respecting those boys, was by order of his majesty; as also a communication that he would make to me in regard to the Padshah Begum. The minister then announced, that the king had come to the determination of admitting to the world the fact, that neither Kywan Jah nor Fureed-oon-Bukht are sons of his majesty; that the king meant to provide for them both handsome income and establishment, but that he meant to remove them from his own residence, and to establish them in the palace of Dowlut Khana, or some other commodious dwelling.

The above communication led me to ask two distinct questions, viz., "What induced his majesty to believe that Fureed-oon-Bukht was not his own son?" and also, "Who was supposed to be the father of the boy?" The minister's reply was, that Meer Fuzul Allee was believed to be the father of the boy; but, at all events, it was certain that he was not the king's son. I here taxed the minister with his having expressed doubt to me on the subject the last time I saw him; he replied candidly, "that in reality he had not any doubts; but that not having then been desired by his majesty to speak to me on this important point, he did not at that time choose to express anything beyond doubts."

The minister then proceeded to relate as follows: that the present king, one day during his father's life-time, on entering the apartment of Fureed-oon-Bukht's mother, discovered Meer Fuzool Allee in the act of taking some highly improper liberties with that lady; that Meer Fuzool Allee immediately made his escape by an opposite door of the apartment; that the present king was highly incensed, and endeavoured to apprehend Meer Fuzool Allee and put him to death; that he had similar intentions with respect to the lady, but that he was prevented from the execution of either of those projects by the Padshah Begum and her numerous household; that the king was so disgusted, that he left his father's palace, and went for three days to the house of the other minister, Moatumud-ood-Dowlah. That he was then persuaded by his father to return to the palace, but that he left it again, and went to Hoosein Baugh, where he resided for several weeks; that the Padshah Begum busily employed herself in endeavouring to reconcile him to Fureed-oon-Bukht's mother; and among other means of effecting this, she told him that the lady was pregnant: that the Padshah Begum continued to amuse him in this way from time to time, but that no fruits of this supposed pregnancy ever appeared till nearly 24 months had elapsed from the time when Meer Fuzool Allee was discovered by the king in the lady's apartment; that at the expiration of the time above mentioned, (namely, 24 months), Fureed-oon-Bukht was born, but that during the whole of that long space of time the present king had never seen the mother. With respect to Kywan Jah, the Nawaub said that the king had been long ashamed of having ever called him the heir apparent to the throne.

In regard to the Padshah Begum, the minister said that she had been exceedingly incensed at the king's conduct in not having brought Fureed-oon-Bukht to an entertainment which

I gave

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I gave to his majesty on the 11th of the last month, and that from that time to this her highness had given infinite trouble both to his majesty and the minister on that account. It was further stated, that his majesty had told Padshah Begum that Fureed-oon-Bukht not having been brought to the residency was his own act, and that the minister had nothing to do with it; that the Begum did not believe this; and that her previous enmity against the minister had been greatly increased in consequence. It was further stated by the minister that the Padshah Begum had lately circulated several reports that he could not live many hours, and that she had been discovered in sending a messenger to Moatumud-ood-Dowlah to warn him to be ready to return to this place in his former situation. The messenger is said to have been apprehended by one of the thanadars near the Ganges, and to have arrived yesterday at Lucknow as a prisoner, when he had confessed that he had been despatched by the Begum for the purpose of the intrigues above noticed. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this statement.

The minister went on to say that the king, partly owing to the above-mentioned discovery, and partly from the long-continued vexatious interference of the Padshah Begum in public affairs, had determined to allot a separate residence to that lady also, and that his majesty was thinking of providing suitable accommodations for her at Fyzabad.

Other subjects connected with public business were mentioned at considerable length by the minister at this conference, and immediately after his departure I committed a memorandum of the whole to paper; but I have purposely confined this minute to a relation of what the minister said respecting the two boys Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht and her highness the Padshah Begum.

(signed) J. Low, Resident.

Lucknow Residency, 3 February 1832.

(True copies.)

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 27.)

ABSTRACT of a LETTER from the Resident at Lucknow to Mr. Secretary Prinsep,
dated 3 February 1832.

REPORTS a conference at the residency with the minister, and forwards a minute of that communication respecting Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht and Padshah Begum. The resident said that if the king's intentions were such as described by the minister, the resident would expect a direct communication from his majesty on the subject. The minister replied that the king intended to do so, both in regard to the two boys and the Padshah Begum. The resident thinks that the whole of these new schemes probably have originated with the minister himself. States that the resident declined giving any advice in the case of Padshah Begum, but merely observed that the removal to Fyzabad would be unpopular, which the minister opposed by citing the instance of the late Bhow Begum, and justified the proposal in consequence of the intrigues against the king, and interference in public affairs on the part of the Padshah Begum, an instance of which is given. The resident observes, that, agreeably to his late instructions, he will not originate any conversation with the king respecting the two boys until he shall receive a reply to this letter; requests an early answer, and adverts to the probability of his majesty's introducing the subject himself. States that former papers on this subject have not been compared with the present information; and concludes by saying, that if the king shall confirm what the minister has now stated, the question of the right to the throne of either of the two boys will be set at rest.

(No. 27.)

(signed) J. Low, Resident.

(No. 28.)

(Duplicate.)

To H. T. Prinsep, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general, Head Quarters,
Secret Department.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to report to you that the minister Moontuzim-ood-Dowlah paid me a visit last night for the first time since his late severe illness, from which he is not yet entirely recovered.

(No. 28.)

2. The principal objects of the minister at this visit were threefold; first, to make known to me a new scheme of the king's with respect to his mother, the Padshah Begum; next, to mention his majesty's intentions respecting the two boys Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht; and lastly, to expatiate a great deal on the often-repeated complaints of this court respecting the jurisdiction exercised by the resident over the ex-minister's dependants and followers.

3. I mean to confine this despatch to relating what passed at the conference of last night respecting the Padshah Begum and the two boys Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht; and I accordingly have the honour to enclose a minute of the communication made to me on these subjects.

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4. In the minute above adverted to the Governor-general will observe that I have merely related what the minister said to me; but it is proper that I should also report the substance of my replies to certain parts of the minister's communication.

5. In regard to the spurious birth of the two boys, I merely said that if those were the sentiments of the king, it would be necessary for me to have them confirmed to me by his majesty himself, though I at the same time observed, that such arrangements as those of providing separate accommodations for the two boys were matters with which I had nothing to do. The minister said that his majesty intended to speak to me fully on the whole subject, both with respect to the spurious birth of the two boys, and in regard to his plans for a separate place of residence being allotted to the Padshah Begum. I imagine that the minister himself must have originated the whole scheme, although, if the king should confirm it, we must consider the measure as his majesty's own.

6. In regard to the proposed removal to Fyzabad of his majesty's mother, the minister pressed me rather anxiously for advice on the subject. I declined giving any; saying that the Padshah Begum was not a pensioner of the British Government, and that I would not take any part whatever in the domestic arrangements of his majesty's family. The minister then begged me earnestly to give him my sentiments as a private friend. I was averse to meddling with the affair at all, but I did answer him so far as to say, that I thought the removal of the Padshah Begum to Fyzabad would cause a great sensation in the community of this city, and would tend to injure the reputation both of the king and the minister. The minister opposed those sentiments; said that Asaf-ood-Dowlah had done the same with respect to his mother the Bhov Begum, and that the king suffered such daily inconvenience from the interference of the Padshah Begum in public affairs, that it has become absolutely necessary that she should no longer reside in the same palace. I repeated what I had before said, that the domestic affairs of his majesty was no business of mine, but that the proposed change might involve the king in much of trouble; and that he ought to weigh the matter very carefully indeed before he adopted it. The minister said that it should be carefully weighed, and that there was no necessity for any immediate measures. He then expatiated at great length upon the long-established habits of the Begum, of intriguing against the king's authority and reputation, both before and since his accession to the throne; but I do not think it necessary to trouble the Governor-general with any detail of these alleged misdeemeanors on the part of her highness; I may mention one of them, however, viz. that a letter was said to have been intercepted from the Padshah Begum to the address of the late Mr. Secretary Stirling, to the effect that the present king was not the son of Ghazee-ood-deen-Hyder, and that the proper heir to the throne of Oude was Mohsur-ood-Dowlah, a son of Padshah Begum's daughter. The letter alluded to is said to have been written before his present majesty's accession to the throne.

7. As the spurious birth of Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht has now been officially announced to me, it appears to me necessary that I should have the minister's statement confirmed or negatived to me by the king himself; but as your secret instructions of the 25th November last state that it is not at present necessary for me to make any communication to his majesty of his lordship's sentiments respecting the two boys, I shall not volunteer any conversation with his majesty on the subject until I shall have had the honour of a reply to this despatch, and which I beg you to favour me with as soon as possible; but I think it not improbable that I may see his majesty before I can hear from you, and that he will introduce the subject; in which case I shall hold similar language to him to what I have already held to the minister, both in regard to the boys and the Padshah Begum, and which has been fully reported in this despatch, and in that dated the 25th ultimo.

8. I have not thought it necessary at present to compare the information given to me last night by the minister, respecting the birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht, with that formerly obtained by my predecessor, as I am anxious to lose no time in reporting precisely the communication now made to me; nor is it of much importance to compare at this moment the former with the present intelligence, for if (as I expect will be the case) the king shall fully confirm what the minister has now reported to be his sentiments and intentions, the question respecting the rights of either of the two boys must be entirely set at rest, combined as the present information is with the Governor-general's previous sentiments recorded in your instructions to my address of the 25th August, and in your despatch in the secret department, dated 25th November last.

I have, &c.

Lucknow Residency, }
3 February 1832. }

(signed) J. Low, Resident.

(True copy.)

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 29.)

To Major John Low, Resident at Lucknow, Secret Department.

Sir,

(No. 29.)

I AM directed by the Right hon. the Governor-general to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters, dated respectively the 25th ultimo and 3d instant, on the subject of the two boys, Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht.

2. The

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2. The Governor-general looks upon the manner in which this subject was opened by the minister, and the observations made by him, partly as from himself and partly in the name of the king, as designed for the express purpose of procuring from you some insight into, and declaration of, the views and intentions of the British Government in respect to the boys, preparatory to further intrigues, based on what might be so extracted from you. His Lordship therefore regrets that you were not more on your guard than to afford any hint or indication of the opinions of Government on the subject, inasmuch as it would have sufficed to have received the minister's communication as made for the purpose of report to the Governor-general, without letting it be known through you that any specific opinion in regard to the birth of either of the boys had ever been given by his Lordship.

3. The intrigue for removing the Padshah Begum from Lucknow has evidently been encouraged, if it have not its origin in the minister's belief that he has ascertained from you that the boy brought up under her care is not the designated heir of the throne, for, if not assured of this fact, it is scarcely to be supposed that he would have proceeded to such an extreme measure as removal from Lucknow against one who, in the person of the heir apparent, had in possession the pledge of future influence and power. The next step will possibly be to declare a pregnancy in some muhal of the day whose interests are more identified with the minister than those of the queen-mother, and the result, however viewed, can lead only to embarrassment. It was specifically to prevent such intrigues that the instructions to you in respect to the two boys were made secret, and intended to be withheld from both the king and minister. Indeed, if it be not too late, his Lordship would still desire that, in discussing at any time hereafter the pretensions of Fureed-oon-Bukht in particular, the question should be treated by you as a very difficult one, in which, after what passed in the lifetime of his late father, his majesty's declaration of doubt at this late period will require to be received with great caution, and ought by no means to be looked upon as conclusive against his birth.

4. If, in consequence of your taking this line, further measures against the Padshah Begum, or queen-mother, who is bringing up the boy, should be suspended, his Lordship will be well pleased with the result. If you are precluded from taking this course by the unreserved nature of your past communications to the minister, or if the measures commenced be persisted in, and the Begum's removal from Lucknow be resolved upon, the Governor-general cannot think the case would warrant an authoritative interference to prevent the measure from being carried into effect. But your advice, in so far as it may be solicited, should be given without reserve against so harsh a proceeding towards one to whom the reigning king owes such deep obligations, and the motives of which would be liable to such evil constructions.

5. The Governor-general sees no objection to your offering friendly advice, when asked, on occasions of this description, with the design of learning your candid, unprejudiced sentiments; all that has been forbidden is the obtruding advice in the name of the Government, and with the authority attaching to the position of its representative at the court.

6. With exception to the indication afforded by your communications to the minister, that the British Government entertained doubts of the title of either of the boys to be recognized as heir apparent of Oude, his Lordship sees nothing in the report of your conferences with the minister that is not entitled to his approbation and praise.

Camp, Mehal, 15 February 1832.

(signed) *H. T. Prinsep*,
Secretary to Governor-general.

(True copy.)

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 30.)

ABSTRACT of a LETTER from the Resident at Lucknow to Mr. Secretary Prinsep, dated 9 February 1832.

REPORTS a meeting with the king at Mr. Cassa de Nova's, and a subsequent meeting and conversation with his majesty at the residency, when his majesty declared that he would not send Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, on the occasion of the approaching Eed, to the mosque, at the request of the resident. For an explanation of the cause of such a step, his majesty declared that neither of those boys are his sons; states that the minister repeated what he had before mentioned to the resident on this subject, and details the king's account of the manner in which his majesty had been prevailed upon by Mulkae Zumania, and Sookhchein and Meer Fuzul Allee to acknowledge these boys, but the king now positively disowns them both. The king assents to the minister's allusion as to the period of Fureed-oon-Bukht's birth; his majesty laments the follies which he was formerly persuaded to commit by interested persons, as to the two boys; expresses a determination to act more sensibly in future. The king compliments the resident, who gives him some salutary advice. States that the king's expressions on this occasion have been correctly translated, and that it must now be considered that the pretensions of the boys are finally at rest. Remarks that no allusion was made to the Padshah Begum, excepting by one observation from the king, which is described; and concludes by remarking on the first embarrassment of the king, and his subsequent ease of manner and conversation.

(No. 30.)

(signed) *J. Low*, Resident.

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

(No. 31.)

(Duplicate.)

Appendix (A.)
(No. 31.)

To *H. T. Prinsep*, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general, Head Quarters.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 9 February 1832.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that I met the king of Oude on the 7th instant, at the house allotted to Mr. Cassanova, for the purpose of looking at a painting executed by that gentleman, and that on leaving the house, his majesty told me that he wished to speak to me on business, in a day or two; I of course expressed my readiness to meet his majesty at any time, and I asked him to breakfast with me any day that might suit him, when he fixed on the 9th instant.

2. I had, accordingly, the honour of his majesty's company at breakfast this morning; and when the meal was concluded, I retired with him and the minister to a private room. After a short conversation on unimportant subjects, his majesty, who appeared considerably embarrassed, observed to me, that in about 20 days more, the Rumzan fast would be concluded by certain religious ceremonies at the mosque of the Imambarrah; that it had been his practice hitherto, on these occasions, to send the boys Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht in great state to the mosque, and that he had now determined to discontinue that practice.

3. I replied that I had no concern with arrangements of that description, but that I hoped his majesty would tell me his reasons for the proposed change. He pointed to the minister, saying, that he would explain the whole matter. Instead of referring to the Nawaub, I thought it better to encourage his majesty to speak to me himself; I told him that I was his friend, and that the Governor-general, whom I represented, was his friend, and that it would be more suitable to his high station to communicate to me his sentiments direct, when I had the pleasure of meeting him. The minister immediately joined me in encouraging his majesty to speak to me himself; when the king turned round towards me, and said to me distinctly, "Well, I believe you are my real friend, and the truth of the matter is, that neither of those two boys are sons of mine, and I have determined to tell you of this fact, and you may write it to the Governor-general. Now the Nawaub will tell you anything more about it that you may wish to know: indeed he has already told you."

4. I told the king, that if this were the fact, he had done perfectly right to mention it to me in plain terms. The minister then went over the whole story of the impositions respecting those boys that had been practised upon the public; but so nearly in the same terms, and exactly to the same purport as his former account (which has been fully reported), that it is not necessary to repeat what he said on the present occasion; it is more important to record those expressions from his majesty himself which bear upon the point.

5. With that view I have to report, that in the course of the conversation the king made the following remark, "Both reports as to these boys being sons of mine were false, and both arose from the same cause, bribery and a desire for power; Mulkae Zumania paid lacs of rupees to people to induce them to persuade me to call her son the heir apparent, and Sookhchein and Meer Fuzul Allee did exactly the same, to make it be believed that Fureed-oon-Bukht was my son; but I know positively that he is not my son, and my father-knew this also."

6. The minister then alluded again to the long period which elapsed (mentioning number of months, viz. 24), between the birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht and the time when the king ceased to have any connexion with his mother; and the king assented to the truth of that remark, saying, "It is quite true."

7. The conversation continued some time, but I do not recollect any other connected expressions of his majesty that need be recorded on this occasion; he made some observations at different times, however, to the following purport; viz. that he was formerly surrounded by selfish people, who for their own interests, were continually persuading him to do and say foolish things; that some of them even threatened him with misfortune, if he did not comply with their wishes; and that, in consequence, he had committed the foolish act of allowing these boys to be considered as belonging to the royal family; but that he now lived in happier times, possessed a minister devoted to his real interests, and was determined, for the future, to act in a more sensible manner. He then paid some extravagant compliment to myself, which need not be detailed, and requested me to explain to the Governor-general, that when his majesty acted in the foolish manner above noticed, he was not master of his own actions, but was "forced" (as he termed it) to act according to the dictates of selfish advisers. I encouraged his majesty, by telling him that few people could boast of having always acted wisely during their youth, but I remarked, that he is now of mature age, and that I hoped and trusted he would in future make up for all former follies of every description. I recommended earnestly that he would attend to the business of his government, assuring him that by acting justly and kindly towards his subjects, he would not only bestow happiness on them, but would be much more happy himself than ever he had been before, and would acquire a noble reputation in the world.

9. The conversation respecting the two boys ended by the remarks from his majesty, the purport of which is given in the foregoing paragraph, and combined as those remarks are with the direct expressions from the king, which I have correctly translated in the third and fifth paragraphs, I imagine that the pretensions of either Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, to the throne of Oude, must be considered as finally set at rest.

10. No allusion whatever was made by the king at this conference to the plans before-mentioned

mentioned to me by the minister, of providing a separate abode, either for the boys or the Padshah Begum, and I thought it better not to introduce either of those subjects myself. The only remark that was made in regard to the Padshah Begum, was, that she was excessively incensed at the king, for not having brought Fureed-oon-Bukht to dine with me on the 11th of last month, which the king mentioned with a laugh. I made no reply to the observation.

11. The king appeared a good deal embarrassed when he first commenced on the business part of this conference, but he was afterwards in excellent spirits, and spoke much more to me, and with greater ease and fluency than he ever did on any previous occasion since my arrival at Lucknow.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. Low, Resident.

(True copy.)

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 32.)

ABSTRACT of a LETTER from the Resident at *Lucknow* to Mr. Secretary *Prinsep*, dated 1 March 1832.

REGRETS that he did not anticipate the Governor-general's wishes in receiving the minister's communications respecting Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, and assigns the cause of the mistake arising from the resident's misconception of the instructions of the 25th November. Adverts to the king's original declaration of Fureed-oon-Bukht being his son, and to the general belief of its falsity, subsequently rendered still stronger by his adoption of Kywan Jah as heir apparent. Adverts also to the reasons which had hitherto induced the British Government not to agitate that question, and notices that the British Government could always decide the right of succession. The affair is now changed by the king's declaring officially that they are not his sons, to meet which exigency the resident concluded the instructions of the 25th November had been issued; those of the 25th August having already cautioned him not to commit himself by acknowledging the pretensions of the boys. Intimates the resident's intention of again writing on this subject tomorrow, to ascertain the Governor-general's sentiments after perusing the letter of the 19th ultimo. Adverts to his Lordship's instructions how to act under circumstances of doubt, and to the different stage of the affair as detailed in his report of the 9th ultimo; and points out the difference between those two cases.

(signed) J. Low, Resident.

(No. 33.)

To *H. T. Prinsep*, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general, Head Quarters,
Secret Department.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 1 March 1832.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 21st ultimo.

2. I regret much to find that I did not anticipate the wishes of the Right Honourable the Governor-general in my manner of receiving the unexpected communication made to me by the minister respecting the boys Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht; my mistake was caused by my having previously misunderstood his Lordship's intention in furnishing me with information contained in your despatch of the 25th November last.

3. In your instructions, dated the 25th of August, I was cautioned not to commit myself by any step that could be construed into an acknowledgment of either of the two boys as heir apparent to the throne of Oude, and in your despatch of the 25th November the reasons for that caution were fully detailed, and excellent arguments and strong facts were adduced to show that it was scarcely possible that Fureed-oon-Bukht could really be the son of the king, while still stronger evidence exists in this office tending to the same conclusion, especially the original declaration of the late king, when the boy was born, that he was not his grandson.

4. The present king, however, originally declared the boy to be his son. The general impression here at the time was that the assertion was false, and that it was made by the prince from his enmity to his father, and owing to the undue influence exerted over his weak character by the mother of Fureed-oon-Bukht, while this belief was afterwards rendered doubly strong by his subsequent act of styling another boy the heir apparent, who was notoriously born in an elephant shed long before his mother entered the precincts of the palace; nevertheless, it would have been to involve ourselves in unnecessary trouble to oppose the caprice of a reigning king in a matter of this kind, as long as he did not demand any formal recognition on our part in favour of either boy; more especially as we should always have the power of ultimately preventing the injustice of raising any one to the throne who might not possess a just right to the succession.

5. Under such circumstances, the caution not to commit myself by acknowledging Kywan Jah or Fureed-oon-Bukht, appeared to me to be the natural procedure of a paramount power, desiring to act with justice towards the Oude state, and, for the reasons mentioned in your

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despatch, I thought that it was also quite proper not at present to volunteer any communication of the Governor-general's opinion; for, in the event of the king's death, the power would be in our hands to do what is just in any case; and from the nature of our connexion with this state, the British Government would always be the authority looked to by the people for the decision. It also seemed probable that this king might yet have sons of his own, in which case it might be expected that he would of himself abjure his former folly in regard to both of the boys in question.

6. The whole affair was changed, however, as connected with our proceedings, when the king himself came forward with an official confession, through his minister, that he had hitherto been supporting a base imposition on the world in regard to both of those boys, and I, unfortunately, supposed that the communication which had been made to me of the Governor-general's real sentiments had been made for the purpose of enabling me to meet such a contingency, and put an end to the supposition, if any entertained it, that the British Government would give its countenance to such unworthy conduct on the part of the king; I imagined that, if this had not been the motive, your despatch of the 25th November would never have been written, as the instructions of the 25th August last were ample in regard to the necessity of not committing myself by acknowledging the pretensions of either of these two boys.

7. I have thought it necessary to address this explanation to you of those circumstances and considerations which led me to act as I did, when the minister informed me of the king's intentions; and to-morrow I shall address you again on this subject, even if I should be still without the satisfaction of being apprised of the Governor-general's sentiments after his Lordship has perused my letter of the 9th ult.

8. Your despatch, now acknowledged, states that, if it be not too late, the Governor-general desires me in any future discussion to treat the case of Fureed-oon-Bukht as a very difficult one, and to say that his majesty's doubts as to that youth ought not to be looked upon as conclusive against his birth; but my letter of the 9th ult. reported a very different stage of the business; and I have been lately in daily hopes of hearing from you in reply to that letter, in order that I might know exactly what his Lordship's wishes are, after that material alteration in the circumstances of the affair, that is to say, the difference that exists between two cases, one being the expression of doubts on the part of the king, and the other, and subsequent case, being that of his majesty himself having officially announced that he knows the boy is not his son; stating also, that his father knew this (which we know to have been the late king's opinion), and telling the resident that he might report the fact to the British Government.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Low*, Resident.

(True copies.)

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 34.)

ABSTRACT of a LETTER from the Resident at Lucknow to Mr. Secretary *Prinsep*,
dated 2 March 1832.

(No. 34.)

IN continuation of yesterday's despatch, assigns the cause of this second letter. Reports that, in consequence of the resident's disapprobation of the measure, the idea of removing Padshah Begum to Fyzabad has been given up; that the king has been reconciled to her, and presented her with upwards of two lacs of rupees. States that Koodseeah Begum is said (by the newswriters) to have persuaded the king that she is pregnant. Observes that the birth of a son cannot be so embarrassing as the situation in which the British Government has been since the birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht; assigns reason for such a conclusion, and notices the consideration which would actuate the British Government in the election of a successor to the king. Intimates the resident's readiness to be guided by the Governor-general's orders. Details his conversation with Jagoodeen Hoosain Khan regarding the king's last declaration, and the Governor-general's opinion on the subject. States that the matter is entirely open to the Governor-general as to the mode of treating the king's late declaration, since the resident has only given the hints alluded to as from himself. Comments on the probable consequences of disavowing our former suspicions entertained of the spurious birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht, and notices the course that the resident will pursue till honoured with further instructions.

(signed) *J. Low*,
Resident.

(No. 35.)

(Duplicate.)

To *H. T. Prinsep*, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general, Head Quarters, Secret Department.

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Appendix (A.)
(No. 35.)

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 2 March 1832.

IN continuation of the subject of my letter of yesterday's date, I now beg leave to address you again, with the view of affording to the Right Honourable the Governor-general some further information regarding certain points noticed in your despatch of the 21st ult., and also in the hope that I may receive more explicit instructions for my guidance in regard to the boy Fureed-oon Bukht, after his Lordship shall have taken into consideration the tenor of his majesty's conference with me on the 9th ult., the observations contained in your letter of the 21st of the last month having been made without reference to the conference in question.

2. In regard to the scheme of removing the Padshah Begum to Fyzabad, I have the satisfaction to state that the disapprobation of the measure which I felt in my individual capacity, and expressed as such to the minister, seems to have had the effect of having completely put an end to it. I had some further conversation on this subject with the Nawaub a few days after my last conference with the king, when I again expressed my belief that any harsh procedure against the mother of the king would be both cruel to her and very impolitic; and I ridiculed the idea suggested by the minister, that any serious injury to the administration of the country would be caused by the Padshah Begum, or by any begum, as long as he should enjoy the confidence of the king by honestly doing his duty. The minister did not at the time positively promise to give up all idea of removing Padshah Begum, though he said what was nearly equal to it, that he was sure the king would not take any steps in so serious a matter without my approbation; but two days afterwards Jagoodeen Hoosain Khan* told me that the Padshah Begum had promised to the king not to interfere with the affairs of the state in the manner she had lately been doing, and that his majesty had agreed to allow her to remain as heretofore in the palace.

3. The alleged reconciliation between the king and his mother, above noticed, is corroborated by a report which I have reason to believe to be correct, that his majesty but a few days ago presented his mother with a gift of upwards of two lacs of rupees in ready money. I understand that this extravagance on the part of the king has been the cause of much vexation to the minister.

4. With respect to the possibility of a pregnancy being declared in some muhal, noticed in your despatch, I imagine that there is nothing more probable, for my newswriters have already mentioned to me that the cause of Koosein Begum's increased influence of late has been her persuading the king that she has symptoms of pregnancy. Such an event as a birth of a son will undoubtedly be somewhat embarrassing; but it cannot, in my opinion, be more so than the situation we have been in ever since the birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht. Indeed, it appears to me, that if the king were to claim a child born in his palace some time hence, the case must of necessity be somewhat less embarrassing than the former one. Supposing such a child to be really a son of the king, of course there would be no embarrassment; and in the event of the child being of spurious birth, it is very unlikely that the plot would be so clumsily managed as it was (according to common report) in the case of Fureed-oon-Bukht. The boy would probably be produced within such period as must have elapsed had the king been really the father; so that the general feeling could not be offended by the glaringness of the imposition, and the community, generally speaking, would probably be satisfied.

5. It would be unworthy of the British Government to support any succession to the throne of Oude that the inhabitants of the country believed to be unjust; but if, on the other hand, the people are satisfied, there would not be any absolute necessity for us to sift the matter, unless we have reason to suspect a fraud, in which case an investigation might be instituted, as was done at the birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht. I therefore arrive at the conclusion that we cannot, in any new case, be more awkwardly situated than we have been in the case of Fureed-oon-Bukht.

6. Nevertheless, I trust I need not say that whatever my own opinion may be, it is not less my inclination than my duty to act entirely as the Governor-general may see fit; and this leads me to advert again to the second object noticed in the outset of this despatch, and to solicit his Lordship's further instructions, grounded on the information reported in my letter of the 9th ultimo.

7. In the meantime I have already taken an opportunity of acting, as far as I could venture to do so, in the manner indicated in the 3d paragraph of your despatch of the 21st ultimo.

8. The opportunity was afforded to me by a visit this morning from Jagoodeen Hoosain Khan, who had occasion to attend at my office for the adjustment of some matter connected with the supply of our troops. He asked me if I had heard from the Governor-general lately, saying that the king was anxious to hear that his Lordship had excused his majesty's former folly in imposing upon the world as he had done, with regard to the two boys; I told him that I had heard, and that his Lordship's mind was impressed with very unpleasant suspicions at hearing that the king had any intention of doing so extraordinary a thing as

to

* This person is a frequent messenger both from the king and the minister, for the transaction of petty business connected with the residency.—(signed) *J. Low*, Resident.

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to contradict his own positive assertions in former times with respect to Fureed-oon-Bukht and that I could foresee that the matter would be considered as a very important and a very difficult one by the British Government.

9. Jagoodeen Hoosain Khan expressed the utmost degree of wonder at my language; he said, "All the world knows that Fureed-oon-Bukht is the son of Meer Fuzul Allee; people were afraid to say so after this king came into power, but before that every body openly spoke of it. The king himself has long been ashamed of his own former conduct as to these boys, but could not make up his mind before to confess his folly." He then added suddenly, "I suppose you have not yet reported to the Governor-general what the king himself told you the last time he breakfasted with you." I told him that he was mistaken, and that I had reported it fully; then, said he, "His Lordship cannot have received your letter when he wrote to you." I answered him candidly, by saying that I had not received an answer to my report of the king's conference; but that it had been many days in his Lordship's possession, and that it appeared to me that his Lordship's opinion might not be much altered by what the king had said to me, as in fact it was exactly the same with what the Nawaub had previously mentioned, and that his conversation regarding both the boys had been fully reported by me. I added, that the British Government did not admit of heirs to a throne, connected with it as Oude is, to be made and unmade with so little ceremony as the king seemed to think.

10. By holding the language above related as coming only from myself individually, I have left the question entirely open to the Governor-general to confirm it, if he should still consider such a course to be the best, or to adopt an opposite course, grounded upon my report of his majesty's official declaration to me of the 9th ultimo, that Fureed-oon-Bukht is not his son.

11. If we now disavow our own former suspicions of the spurious birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht, and oppose the king's declaration that he is not his son, I am afraid that we shall not get credit for straightforward intentions among the natives in this place. They will suspect, I fear, that we are lending ourselves to the palace intrigues from some sinister motive, or forming some scheme of our own, contrary to the king's wishes, if not his rights. I think it proper to mention that such is my impression; but I may be wrong, and I leave it with satisfaction to the better judgment of my superiors to determine what is the best course to be pursued.

12. In your instructions now acknowledged, and which have led me to use the language above described to an officer in the king's public service, that course was indicated to me as the proper one, "if it be not too late;" but as you had not then acknowledged my report of the king's conference, and as I wish, at all events, that so important a question as that of whether it is or is not too late, should be decided by the superior judgment of the Governor-general, I thought it best, for the present, to hold such language as coming from myself only, and to that plan I shall adhere, until I shall have been honoured with his Lordship's further instructions.

I have, &c.

(signed) J. Low, Resident.

(True copy.)

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 36.)

To G. Swinton, Esq. Chief Secretary to Government, Political Department.

Sir,

Simla, 5 May 1832.

(No. 36.) WITH reference to the despatches from the resident at Lucknow, dated respectively the 9th February, and 1st and 2d March last, concerning the boys Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a Minute, recorded by the Right honourable the Governor-general, of this date, on the subject, and to request you will lay the same before his Honor in Council.

I have, &c.

(signed) W. H. Macnaghten,
Secy to the Gov^t-gen^l.

(True copy.)

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 37.)

MINUTE of the Governor-general.

Political Department, Simla, 5 May 1832.

(No. 37.)

It is unfortunate that the resident at Lucknow should have so far misapprehended the meaning of his instructions, under date the 25th of November last, as to have supposed that it was desired to obtain from the king of Oude an acknowledgment that Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht were not his sons. The design of those instructions was to guard the resident against committing the Government by any opinion one way or the other. The resident,

resident, in thus eagerly catching at an acknowledgment of their spurious origin, and in making known the suspicions entertained upon this point by the Supreme Government, has, I fear, lent himself, unintentionally, to an intrigue of the minister to get rid of the influence of the Padshah Begum, the great ally of his rival, the ex-minister, and probably, also, to set up an heir to the musnud with no better claim to legitimacy than that of either of these repudiated boys.

The resident urges our assent to this statement, and, consequently, to a formal exclusion of the right of succession of both these boys. Upon the information already obtained, the illegitimacy of Kywan Jah is quite indisputable, but that of the younger boy seemed to rest upon proof, very doubtful indeed, but not of the same questionable character, and it would be most unfair to this claimant to allow the present declaration of so weak and imbecile a witness as the king, to weigh anything against his own former contrary declaration, so often and so publicly made. To me it appears, therefore, that the question remains exactly where it was; and I think it will be better still to avoid the expression of any opinion which can be construed into an admission or denial of the king's affirmation. But as this is a point of great importance, the decision of which may create very great embarrassment to the Government, I am very desirous of being favoured with the sentiments of the Vice President in Council upon it.

(signed) *W. C. Bentinck.*

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten.*
Secy to Govr-genl.

(No. 38.)

ABSTRACT of a LETTER written by the Resident at Lucknow to Mr. Secretary Macnaghten, dated 12 April 1832.

REPORTS the serious indisposition of the king, and notices the embarrassing situation in which the resident would find himself in the absence of any instructions from the Governor-general, with respect to the king's successor, in the event of his majesty's death. Alludes to former despatches respecting Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, and quotes the last paragraph of that of the 2d ultimo. States that the minister visited the resident on the 13th ultimo, and mentioned a recent occurrence, showing the resolution of the king not to acknowledge either of the boys as members of his family. The minister informs the resident that owing to Mulkea Zumanee's refusal to receive the dresses sent to her on the Nonzoze (in consequence of their not having been sent to the two boys), he had recommended his majesty to send dresses to them also; and that the king, who unwillingly consented to do so, had written on the petition that Fureed-oon-Bukht was Meer Fuzul Allee's son, and that the minister knew whose son Kywan Jah was. The resident remarked that the paper could not affect the sentiments of the Governor-general, but that he would not object to see it. States that the minister immediately sent for the paper, and that it has been retained by the resident for future reference; and, in the meantime, a translation of it is enclosed. Communicates Lieutenant Paton's and the head moonshee's opinions, that the remarks on the minister's urzee are in the king's handwriting. Notices the notoriety of the spurious birth of Kywan Jah; solicits the Governor-general's instructions on this general subject; and observes that, in the event of the king's death, no serious interruption to the public tranquillity need be apprehended in establishing a successor, provided that his Lordship's final resolution be previously known. States that if Fureed-oon-Bukht should not be recognized, and if his majesty were to die without issue, the right of succession would, in the opinion of the Lucknow community, rest between Nusseer-ood-Dowlah and Moher-ood-Dowlah. Reasons are given for the preference of Nusseer-ood-Dowlah's claim; and concludes by stating that this despatch will not be recorded in the public books of the office, and that the Governor-general's decision will, in like manner, be kept secret.

Lucknow Residency, 13 April 1832.

(signed) *J. Low, Resident.*

(No. 39.)

To *W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.,* Secretary to the Governor-general, Head Quarters, Secret Department.

Sir,

Lucknow Residency, 12 April 1832.

It is with regret that I have to report to you, for the information of the Right Hon. the Governor-general, that during the last six or seven days his majesty the king of Oude has been seriously ill from fever; that he has been rather worse since the 9th instant, and that he is now compelled to remain in a dark room, having been afflicted, in addition to his internal disease, with great inflammation in both his eyes. It is supposed that this inflammation was originally caused by the disordered state of his stomach, and that is not decreasing, owing to his childish dislike to taking medicine.

2. I have been to pay a visit to his majesty, who was in bed; and judging from the tone of his voice, and from the imperfect view I had of him (the room being much darkened), I have no reason to suppose that his illness is of a dangerous nature, but it is certainly

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a severe one; and that circumstance has naturally led my thoughts to the very embarrassing situation in which I should find myself with regard to his successor, in the event of the king's demise occurring either now or at any future period, while the resident is without any instructions on that important point.

3. In my despatches of the 25th of January, 3d of February, and 1st and 2d ultimo, to the address of Mr. Prinsep, the late proceedings of the king respecting the boys Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, were fully described; I need not, therefore, enlarge on that subject now; but, to prevent the trouble of reference, I beg leave to subjoin here the concluding paragraph of my letter of the 2d ultimo:

"In your instructions now acknowledged, and which have led me to use the language above described to an officer in the king's public service, that course was indicated to me as the proper one, 'if it be not too late;' but as you had not then acknowledged my report of the king's conference, and as I wish at all events that so important a question as that of whether it is or is not too late should be decided by the superior judgment of the Governor-general, I thought it best for the present to hold the language as coming from myself only; and to that plan I shall adhere until I shall have been honoured with his Lordship's further instructions."

4. The minister paid me a visit on the 13th of the last month, and in the course of conversation, he asked me if the Governor-general had yet written to me finally about the two boys. In my answer to the minister, I adhered to the plan noticed in the above quotation, by saying that the question was one of great difficulty, &c. The minister's first reply was short, being as follows: "The British Government is all-powerful, and may at any time consider any question in respect to Oude either as a difficult or an easy one, just as it pleased; but that he felt perfectly convinced of the king's determination never again to acknowledge either of the two boys as his heir, or as belonging to his family in any degree of relationship."

5. The Nawaub then mentioned an occurrence which had taken place a few days before as a proof of the king's resolve being a fixed one, not to admit the pretensions of either of the boys, and stated the circumstances as follows: he said that he had, according to custom, sent presents to all the ladies of the palace, in the name of the king, on the occasion of the Nowroze festival, and that Mulkyea Zumanie had refused hers, in consequence of the compliment not having been paid to the two boys. The minister further stated that, being anxious to prevent disputes about trifles, he had written an urzee to the king to recommend that the compliment should be paid to the two boys, and that he did so because such compliments are merely matters of civility to different persons residing at the palace, and to men in high office, and because the act of including these two boys would tend to preserve peace and quiet in the mahal of Mulkyea Zumanie.

6. The minister went on to say, that the king had not willingly acceded to his suggestion, and in such a manner as showed beyond a doubt that he would not acknowledge either of the boys as belonging to his family; which he explained, by informing me that his majesty had written with his own hand upon the top of the urzee that Fureed-oon-Bukht was the son of Meer Fuzul Allee, and that the other was the son of "you know who," meaning, as the Nawaub explained it, that all the world knows the boy to be the son of Mahout. The minister added, "You shall see the paper yourself; I will send for it now."

7. In pursuance of my plan, I told the Nawaub that the paper he described, would not, in my opinion, make any difference, one way or the other, in the mind of the Governor-general, but that I had no objection to see it. The minister immediately wrote a note to some one at his house, and in a few minutes his messenger returned with the paper he had mentioned. I affected, in my manner and conversation to the Nawaub, not to consider the paper as of any importance, but I allowed him to leave it on my table, and after conversing on various other subjects for some time, he returned to his house, and the paper remained in my possession. In regard to the paper itself, it cannot be considered as a more formal disclaimer on the part of the king, respecting the two boys, than his conference with me on the 9th of February last; but, nevertheless, I thought it advisable to retain it in the secret department of this office, either to be made use of at any future period, or not, as the Governor-general may deem best; and I now enclose a translation of it, with the view of furnishing to his Lordship the fullest information in my power, on which to form his decision for or against the claims of Fureed-oon-Bukht. Before concluding this part of the subject, I beg to say I have shown this paper in confidence (of which the inclosed is a translation,) to Lieutenant Paton, and to the head moonshee of this office, who both feel certain that the remarks respecting the birth of the boys were written by the king himself. His handwriting is indeed so bad, and so remarkable in the formation of the letters, that there is no mistaking any other writing for his majesty's.

8. In regard to Kywan Jah, it is so notorious a fact that he was born long before the king had any connexion with his mother, that I imagine the British Government would never have acknowledged his pretensions, even if his majesty had continued to uphold them.

9. The sole object of this despatch, is to solicit of the Governor-general the favour of instructions respecting the succession to the throne of Oude, for my guidance in the event of the demise of the present king; and if that event should unfortunately occur during my ministry at Lucknow, I should not apprehend any difficulty in establishing the successor without serious interruption to the public tranquillity, whether that successor were to be Fureed-oon-Bukht, or any other person, provided I were previously in possession of the Governor-general's final judgment on the question; but without having instructions on that important

important point, many serious inconveniences might occur, and I therefore entreat his Lordship to take the matter into his early consideration.

Claimants to the Throne of Oude.

Appendix (2.)
(No. 39.)

10. If the information respecting the birth of Fureed-oon-Bukht, furnished by my predecessor, combined with late occurrences, should induce the Governor-general to consider the claim of that youth to the throne as not valid; it seems to me, if the present king were to die without issue, that the right of succession would rest, in the minds of the community here, entirely between Nusseer-ood-Dowlah and Mohsen-ood-Dowlah; the former is the eldest surviving son of Saadut Allee Khan, and consequently a brother of the late king; the latter is a grandson of the late king, being the son of his daughter. I mention these two persons, because Mohun-ood-Dowlah is a favourite with the Padshah Begum, and probably she might endeavour to raise a party in his favour. There is no doubt, however, in my own mind, that Nusseer-ood-Dowlah has the preferable claim, because he is the nearest relative in the male line; and as the Mahomedan laws do not admit of a female sovereign, so no one can justly inherit through a female, when so near a relative exists by the male line as Nawaub Nusseer-ood-Dowlah, who is a brother of the late, and an uncle of the present king.

11. I do not mean to record this letter in the public books of this office, and in like manner, I shall be careful to keep secret any instructions that the Governor-general may honour me with on the subject now discussed.

I have, &c.
(signed) J. Low, Resident.

(No. 40.)

TRANSLATION of an URZEE from the Minister *Muntizam-ood-Dowlah*, to His Majesty the King of *Oude* (without date), the original of which was delivered to me on the 13th of March, 1832, with a Translation also of the Orders, and Observations, and Mark of Reference written by His Majesty on the Urzee. The translation of the king's handwriting is in italics, to distinguish it from that of the minister; and the italics are placed on this paper in exactly similar position with the king's writing in the original document.

(No. 40.)

To the Minister of exalted rank, my beloved Brother the Nawaub Sahib.

Let the usual articles be sent to the two low fellows, that is to say, one who is the son of Fuzal Allee, and as for the other, you know who he is.

It is represented, that the trays of dresses have reached all the ladies in the palace, but the Nawaub Zumaneeq has declined receiving those sent to her and to her daughter, because your majesty did not give order for any to be sent to Kywan Jah, nor to Fureed-oon-Bukht. I am in hopes of being authorized to carry into effect whatever may be your order, with regard to giving trays to those two gentlemen (buhadoor), because your majesty has already, without any solicitation, given trays to myself and to General Ahmed Alli Khan, buhadoor, and thus conferred honour upon us, so that the not bestowing trays on the two sons will cause complaint and vexation. Whatever may be ordered shall be done.

May your majesty's enemies be sent to hell, and may your happiness and the prosperity of your kingdom annually increase by the blessing of God.

(True translation.)

Lucknow Residency, 15 April 1832.

(signed) J. Low, Resident.

(True copies.)

(signed) G. Swinton,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 41.)

To Major J. Low, Resident at Lucknow, Secret Department.

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches dated 13th and 25th ultimo, the former soliciting the instructions of the Governor-general as to the succession to the throne of Oude, with reference to the severe illness of the king, and the latter reporting the king's recovery and other matters.

(No. 41.)

In reply, I am directed to acquaint you, that on the subject of the succession to his present majesty, his Lordship has made a reference to the Honourable the Vice President in Council.

I have, &c.

Shimla, 7 May 1832.

(signed) W. H. Macnaghten,
Secretary to Governor-general.

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

(No. 42.)

To *W. H. Macnaghten, Esq.*, Secretary to the Governor-general.

Appendix (A.)
(No. 42.)

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing a copy of a minute recorded by the Right Honourable the Governor-general, regarding the declaration of the king of Oude, on the subject of the spuriousness of the boys heretofore pretended to be his sons.

2. The Vice President in Council is disposed to consider it very fortunate that this declaration has been made, and sees no reason to hesitate in giving credit to it. When the king gave out that the boys were his sons, no one believed him, and the notoriety of the contrary would have caused great embarrassment, in the event of the king's death without this declaration, by which it seems to the Vice President in Council all embarrassment is satisfactorily removed, the king's assent confirming what was before universally believed.

3. Should this declaration prove to be the forerunner of a new intrigue, with a view to set up another spurious heir, the British Government may, the Vice President in Council conceives, be on its guard against such an intrigue with less embarrassment than would be caused by hesitating to acknowledge the spuriousness of the present two boys, after the voice of the people has been confirmed by the avowal of the king, an avowal which he could hardly be so unnatural as to make against any child whom he could suppose to be his own.

4. The Vice President in Council, therefore, not entertaining any doubt of the spuriousness of Fureed-oon-Bukht as well as of Kywan Jah, is of opinion that the declaration of the king ought to be deemed conclusive against the claims of either.

Fort William, 28 May 1832.

I have, &c.

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

True copy.

(signed) *G. Swinton*,
Chief Secretary to Government.

(No. 43.)

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations of 9 April 1832.

(Duplicate).

(No. 23.)—From the Resident at Lucknow to *H. T. Prinsep, Esq.*, Secretary to the Governor-general, Head Quarters.

Sir,

(No. 43.)

I WAS invited to breakfast with his majesty yesterday morning, on the occasion of the Eed-ool-Fite, as were also Brigadier Patton and the officers of the military cantonments. Owing to a slight attack of fever I was unable to attend, but the assistant breakfasted with his majesty along with a number of other gentlemen.

2. At the conclusion of the breakfast at the palace, one of the ceremonies on taking leave is, that the king places "hairs" upon the necks of all European gentlemen, and that the resident, or officer acting as such, pays a similar compliment to some of the Hindoostanee gentlemen who had been seated at the breakfast table. The hairs intended for the natives, are placed into the hands of the resident in the first instance by the king, and the number distributed is regulated by the number of persons called forward by his majesty to receive them.

3. I find, from Lieutenant Paton, that both of the boys, Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, were at the breakfast table yesterday, but that neither of them were called forward to receive "hairs," and it is also worthy of remark, that the boys were not sent on this occasion to the mosque, which had always been done at the anniversaries of this festival for several years past.

4. Generally speaking, these boys have not been present at the king's breakfast parties since my arrival at Lucknow, and his majesty has never brought either of them to the residency breakfast; but two or three times they were both present at the king's breakfast-table when I was there, and on those occasions they were always brought forward to receive "hairs" from my hands along with the relatives of his majesty. The minister also receives a "hair" from the resident on these occasions.

5. I have already stated that both boys were yesterday excluded from the compliment in question. It is impossible to speak positively in such a matter, but it appeared to me that this fact, combined with that notice respecting their not being sent to the mosque, would seem to indicate, that his majesty's intention must be to adhere to the resolve which he announced to me on the 9th ultimo, regarding both Kywan Jah and Fureed-oon-Bukht, and it is in that view of the matter that I have thought these trifling occurrences worthy of being related to the Right Honourable the Governor-general.

I have, &c.

Lucknow Residency, 6 March 1832.

(signed) *J. Low*, Resident.

(No. 44.)

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.(No. 24.)—From the Secretary to the Governor-general, to Major *J. Low*, Resident
at Lucknow, dated 15th March 1832.Appendix (A.)
(No. 44.)

Sir,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 6th instant, and in reply to state that the matter reported therein calls for no orders or observations from his Lordship.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten*,
Secretary to the Governor-general.

Camp, Muttra, 15 March 1832.

(True copy.)

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten*,
Secretary to the Governor-general.

Appendix (B.)

Containing ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE relative to the Claims of the Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah*, and others, to succeed to the Throne of Oude.

Appendix (B.)

(No. 45.)

EXTRACT Political Letter from the Government of *India*, at Fort William, dated
26 June 1837, No. 32.

(No. 45.)

144. NOTED in the margin are letters from Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah* to the address of the Governor-general, calling in question the fact of the descent of the present ruler of Oude from the late King *Ghazee-ood-deen-Hyder*, and submitting his own claim to eventual succession to the throne of that country.

Pol. Cons. 27th
Feb. 1837, Nos.
23 and 24. Cons.
27th March, Nos.
83 and 85.
List No. 82.

He was informed in reply, that we considered it premature at present to enter into a consideration of any claims to succeed to the throne of Oude.

(No. 46.)

EXTRACT Political Letter from the Government of *India*, at Fort William, dated
24 January 1838.

(No. 46.)

Para. 91. RECORDED, as per margin, are letters from Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah*, *Yemeen-ood-Dowlah*, and *Fakkeer-ood-Dowlah*, urging their respective claims to succession to the throne of Oude. It was not deemed necessary to record any order on their communication.

Pol. Cons. 17th
July 1837, Nos. 99
to 105; 31st July,
No. 92; 7th Aug.
Nos. 431 and 432.

92. *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah*, in announcing his intention to proceed to England, having requested exemption from duty on certain articles of value which he was desirous of taking with him, and the adoption of measures for securing to him advances of money in London, he was informed in reply, that these requests were considered to be totally inadmissible.

(No. 47.)

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations, 17 July 1837.

(No. 99.)—From Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah* to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Benares, 28 June 1837.

I HAVE the honour of sending you an English translation of a Persian will I sent you some time back, so that it may be kept in your office; I send you also a witness-paper, for the purpose of its being laid before the Right honourable the Governor-general.

(No. 47.)

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah*.

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

(No. 48.)

Appendix (B.)
(No. 48.)

TRANSLATION and WITNESS-PAPER referred to in the foregoing Letter.

Huzunt Beggun Biather
Allee Rell Khan, Behader
Soba Jung.

1217 Hijree.

Shums-ood-Dowlah Nazim-ool-Moolk Ahmed
Allee Khan, Behador Seulout Jung, Nawaub
Vizier-ool-Memali, Yarmeel-ood-Dowlah, Nazim-
ool-Moolk, Nuwally Sadut Allee Khan, Behador
Mebuzig.

1240 Hijree.

THIS is a will of Shums-ood-Dowlah Nugurd Moolk Ahmed Allee Khan, Behadar Saalut Jung, son of Nawaub Vizier Yamen Saalut Jung, son of Nawaub Vizier Yamen-ood-Dowlah, Nazim-ool-Moolk, Nawaub Saadut Allee Khan, Behadoor Moobaruz Jung, and Huzrut Begum, daughter of Allee Koolie Khan, Behadoor Sirah Jung, on his side. First son, Nazim-ood-Dowlah; second son, Eckbal-ood-Dowlah; third son, Yameen-ood-Dowlah; and fourth son, Moobarizood Dowlah: that when I shall depart this life, you may, between yourselves, and in a friendly manner, live, not quarrel, like people of low birth; and let it not be that your causes, like low people, be brought before the courts and judges, and the world to laugh at you. Let all my household and landed property be equally divided among you, and live in brotherly love; and there is not.

Written the 8th of Suffer, in the year 1240, Hijra, by Shums-ood-Dowlah.

English translation of the real will in Persian.

We witness and know this, that after the death of the late Nazim-ood-Dowlah, now Eckbal-ood-Dowlah is the eldest son of the late Nawaub Shums-ood-Dowlah, 25 Suffer 1253, Hijree.

Cousin in, and Brother-in-
law of Huzrut Begum.

Persian
Seal.

Persian Seal.

Persian Seal.

Son of Nazim-ood-Dowlah.

Son of Nazim-ood-Dowlah.

Persian
Seal.

Brother of Huzrut
Begum.

Persian
Seal.

Brother of Huzrut
Begum.

Persian
Seal.

Brother of Huzrut
Begum.

Persian Seal.

Nephew of Huzrut
Begum.

Persian Seal.

Nephew of Huzrut
Begum.

Persian
Seal.

Brother of Huzrut
Begum.

Persian
Seal.

Oldewan of
Shums-ood-Dowlah.

Persian
Seal.

Oldewan of
Shums-ood-Dowlah.

Persian
Seal.

Old Physician of
Shums-ood-Dowlah.

Persian
Seal.

Old Kandet
of
Shums-ood-Dowlah.

Persian
Seal.

Old Moonshee of
Shums-ood-Dowlah.

(No. 49.)

(No. 102.)—From Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah* to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to the Governor-general of India.

Claimants to the Throne of Oude.

Appendix (B).
(No. 49.)

Sir,

Benares, 1 July 1837.

MAY I beg the favour of your mentioning to the Right honourable Lord Auckland, that it being my intention to go to England in November or December next, and wishing to take a few articles of value with me, such as shawls, cloths, plates, &c. &c., for my own private use, will you have the goodness to solicit the indulgence of my being allowed to take such articles with me free of duty.

I shall also feel extremely thankful if his Lordship will be kind enough to grant me an order on the Honourable the Court of Directors for whatever sums of money I may require in London; the same to be deducted from the amount which I now possess in the Government Treasury in Calcutta.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah*.

(No. 50.)

(No. 103.)—From Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah* to *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India.

(No. 50.)

Sir,

Benares, 11 July 1837.

Do me the favour to lay the accompanying letter before the Right honourable the Governor-general of India with as little delay as possible, as it is a matter of the greatest importance.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah*.

(No. 51.)

(No. 51.)

(No. 104.)—From Nawaub *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah* to the Right Honourable Lord Auckland, Governor-general of India.

My Lord,

Benares, 11 July 1837.

I HAD the honour of receiving, on the 27th March 1837, a letter to my address from *W. H. Macnaghten*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, regarding my appeal to your Lordship concerning the succession to the kingdom of Oude, in which your Lordship is pleased to say, that you consider it premature at present to enter into a consideration of any claims to succeed to the throne of Oude. Positive information having been received at Benares yesterday of the death of his majesty *Nusseer-ood-deen-Hyder*, late king of Oude, I beg leave, with all due deference to your Lordship, to say that the time has now arrived when I trust my claims, or that of my nephew *Fukr-ood-Dowlah*, eldest son of my deceased brother *Nazim-ood-Dowlah*, may be favoured by your Lordship's consideration. It has been stated publicly that *Nusseer-ood-Dowlah*, the third son of my grandfather, the late Nawaub *Saadut Allee Khan*, has been placed on the throne by the resident at Lucknow, until orders may be received from your Lordship; may I implore your Lordship to pause for a short time before you decide on a question of this high importance, and listen to our claims, which I have repeatedly and humbly asked to be heard by your Lordship; and, as my pedigree is undoubted, I am at a loss to imagine upon what grounds *Nusseer-ood-Dowlah* has been honoured in the way he has been by the resident at Lucknow, more particularly as he is nearly 80 years of age, in a state of perfect dotage, and has been blind for the last 20 years. It will therefore be impossible that a person of his infirmities can govern, to the satisfaction of the British Government, an unruly country like Oude. According to the rules of all civilized countries, a throne, like an estate, devolves to the heir-at-law; and, as my father was the second son of the late *Saadut Allee Khan*, and the heirs of the first son have failed, our right appears to every one as clear as the sun at noon-day; but without your favour I am a helpless creature, and can do nothing. If, however, your Lordship will not listen to me as a claimant, will your Lordship condescend to listen to me as a most humble petitioner, and I hereby pledge my word to conform in every way to the wishes and orders of the British Government, and do my utmost endeavour to make the people of Oude happy, for at present they are in a most miserable state. If I ever lose sight of or forfeit this pledge, I solemnly promise to yield up the throne to any other person who may be thought more worthy of it. I have the honour to enclose herewith a genealogical tree of my family, in which your Lordship will be enabled to perceive that the direct succession to the throne of Oude remains in my father's family; and if *Nusseer-ood-Dowlah* is the person selected by your Lordship, the right of succession is taken from my father's family altogether, as this person has several children. Let me, therefore, once more implore your Lordship to take my case into consideration, as it is a well-known fact that the British Government have always hitherto advocated the right of direct succession.

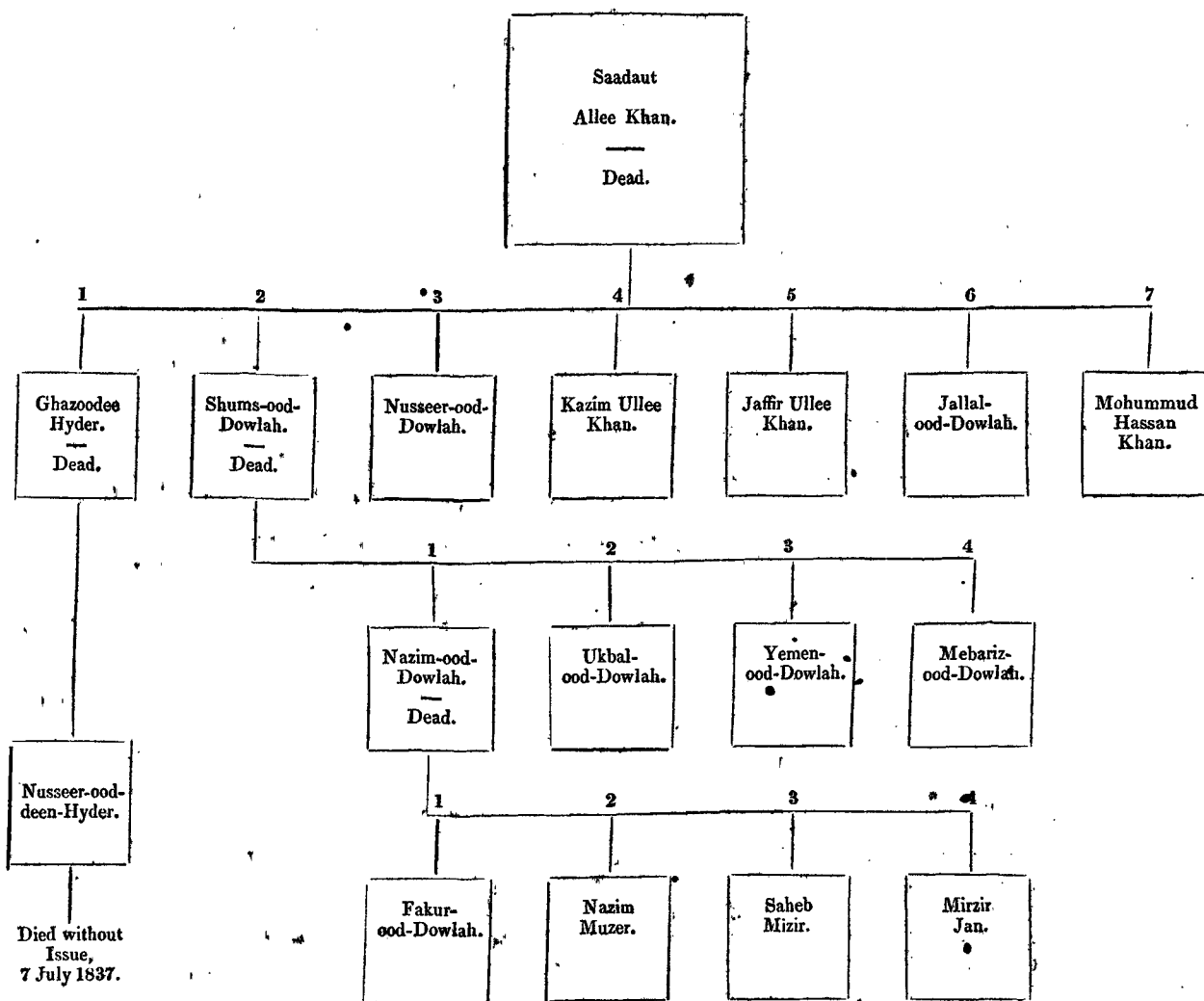
With every feeling of respect, I have, &c.

(signed) *Ekbal-ood-Dowlah*.

CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING THE SUCCESSION

(No. 52.)

GENEALOGICAL TREE referred to in the foregoing Letter.



(No. 53. 54.)

(No. 53.)

Ordered, that the following Letter be written in reply to Nawaub *Eckbal-ood-Dowlah*.(No. 105.)—From the Secretary to the Government of India, to Nawaub *Eckbal-ood-Dowlah*.

Sir,

Fort William, 17 July 1837.

(No. 54.)

I AM desired by the Right hon. the Governor-general of India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your three letters, of the dates and on the subjects noted below.*

2. In reply, I am directed to acquaint you, that these documents having been submitted to the consideration of the Governor-general in Council, it has not been deemed necessary to record any order on the communications of the first and last date, and that the requests preferred in your letter of the second date are altogether inadmissible.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. H. Macnaghten*,

Secretary to the Government of India.

* Letter dated 28 June 1837, forwarding translation of the will of Shums-ood-Dowlah, and a witness paper.

Letter dated 1 July 1837, stating your intention of proceeding to England in November or December next, and soliciting that you be allowed to take with you a few articles of value for your own use free of duty; also an order on the Honourable Court to draw whatever sums of money you may require in London, to be deducted from the amount you now possess in the government treasury.

Letter dated 11 July 1837, forwarding a letter to the address of the Governor-general, and requesting that it may be laid before his Lordship.

(No. 55.)

Claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

Appendix (B.)
(No. 55.)

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations, 31 July 1837.

(No. 92.)—From *Yemeen-ood-Dowlah*, eldest Son of the late Nawaub *Shums-ood-Dowlah*, Bahadur, to the Right Honourable *George Lord Auckland*, G. C. B.

My Lord,

Benares, 11 July 1837.

SOME time ago I had addressed you regarding the settlement and bank of Lucknow, to which you were so kind to reply to me, for which I return you many thanks. Now the king has died, which induces me again to remind your goodness that I am entitled to that settlement. The reason is this, that Nawaub Guzodee Hyder, bahadoor, was the eldest son of Nawaub Saadut Ally Khan, bahadoor, and then my father, Nawaub Shums-ood-Dowlah, bahadoor, whose eldest son I am; therefore entirely leave it to your kind consideration, and trust a favourable reply.

Believe me to be, &c.

(signed) *Yemeen-ood-Dowlah*,
Eldest son of Nawaub Shums-ood-Dowlah, bahadoor.

(No. 56.)

EXTRACT Fort William Political Consultations, 7 August 1837.

(No. 431.)—From Nawaub *Yemeen-ood-Dowlah* to the Right Hon. Lord *George Auckland*, G. C. B.

My Lord,

Benares, 26 July 1837.

(No. 56.)

WITH profound respect and humility, I take the liberty to encroach upon your Lordship's valuable time with this address, and humbly entreat to be pardoned for the same.

Allow me to bring to your Lordship's notice the following circumstances, that my brother Nawaub Iqbal-ood-Dowlah, bahadoor, has proceeded to Calcutta, for the purpose of waiting on your Lordship, in a view of succeeding to the Lucknow throne. I am much surprised and at a loss how and which way he thinks of being entitled to it, when he being next to me. I humbly beg your Lordship will be so condescending as to inquire for the eldest son of Nawaub Shums-ood-Dowlah, bahadoor, for which kindness I shall ever acknowledge.

Your well-wisher,

Yemeen-ood-Dowlah, Bahadoor,
Eldest son of Nawaub Shums-ood-Dowlah, Bahadoor.

(No. 57.)

(No. 432.)—From *Fukur-ood-Dowlah Shurful Moolk Hussein Allee Khan*, Bahadoor, to the Secretary to the Government, dated 27 Rubee-ood-Awul, agreeing with the 1st July 1837; 1253 A. H.—Received by Dawke 7 July 1837.

After Compliments.

I AM hopeful that you will be pleased to submit the enclosed address to the Right Hon. the Governor-general.

(No. 57.)

From the above personage to the Address of the Right Honourable the Governor-general, enclosed in the above.

THE writer of this, *Fukhur-ood-Dowlah*, commonly called Janee, is the eldest son of the late Nawaub *Nazim-ood-Dowlah*, who was the eldest son of the Nawaub *Shums-ood-Dowlah*, deceased, and is entitled, both by law and custom, to succeed to the throne of Lucknow. At present there is much tumult in this city, in consequence of the severe indisposition of his majesty; I have therefore represented my case, in the hope that, having compassion upon an orphan, you will be pleased to do justice to whom justice is due.

From the Same to the Secretary to Government, dated 9th Rubee-ood-Sannee 1253, A. H., or 13th July 1837.—Received by Dawke 19th July 1837.

After Compliments.

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of the enclosed I request that you will be pleased to submit it to the Governor-general, and consider me in the light of your obedient servant.

claimants to the
Throne of Oude.

Appendix (B.)

(No. 57.)

ENCLOSURE in the above to the Address of the Right Honourable the Governor-general.

After Compliments.

AFTER the despatch of my former arzee it is reported that the king is dead, and the resident has placed Unsur-ood-Dowlah, bahadoor, upon the throne. My Lord, such a proceeding is not becoming, and in opposition to the custom of Hindoos, Mussulmen, and the English. Exclusive of the above, what can be expected from this person (Nusseer-ood-Dowlah) who is 90 years of age, blind of both eyes, and from feebleness and infirmity may be considered as alive in the grave? How will he be able to conduct the affairs of this great government? And Lucknow has now, for a long period of time, been in a desolate and unsettled state; to bring it to a proper condition it requires an able and learned chief or government, who is able of himself to arrange all matters, and keep the inhabitants contented, act up to the satisfaction of the British Government, and not to leave all affairs to his ministers. A report prevails this day, that for some months past Nusseer-ood-Dowlah, the present king, has been afflicted with the dropsy, and since his accession to the throne the disorder has increased to such a degree, that the usual Nuzzers presented on such have been postponed. A week has scarcely elapsed, and he is so ill; what can be expected hereafter? As all the members of this family are in hopes of succeeding to the government—by right and justice it belongs to me—bestow the government on me, or to any other member of this family who may be capable of ruling in all, wish for the restoration of prosperity, and good order in the country.

I hope what I have stated will merit your deliberate consideration, as it is an affair of importance.

The succession of Nawaub Nusseer-ood-Dowlah, on account of his being the third son of the late Nawaub Saadut Allee Khan, as well as in consequence of primogeniture, his being of a sickly constitution, blind, and imbecile, is a matter of astonishment to everybody.

(True translation.)

(signed)

Assistant Secretary.

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Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj

on 24 February, 2020

GOVERNMENT OF OUDE.

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RELATIVE TO THE

SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF OUDE.

(Mr. Winthrop Praed.)

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